

September 12, 2016

STIHL inaugurates extension to chain factory in Switzerland

The STIHL Group inaugurated an extension to its Bronschhofen chain production facility in the Swiss Canton of St. Gallen on September 12, 2016. The investment totaled some 40 million Swiss francs. Adding 55 meters to the length of the existing chain factory has created 10,000 square meters of extra space for production and engineering. This in turn will, over time, create 50 new jobs in Bronschhofen. STIHL supervisory and advisory board chairman Dr. Nikolas Stihl said: "Our saw chains 'Made in Switzerland' occupy a leading position on the world market and are recognized for their technological excellence. The extension will further strengthen our position." The first workplaces will be ready by the end of the year.

Commitment to Switzerland

In his welcoming speech, Joachim Zappe, general manager of the STIHL chain facilities in Switzerland, said: "Such a large-scale building extension cannot be taken for granted in today's economic environment. In view of the strong Swiss franc there are very few industrial companies at this time that would invest in a building project involving such high financial resources." Zappe went on to say: "But over the last year and a half we have succeeded in further increasing productivity, cutting costs and, at the same time, guaranteeing our indispensable premium quality. On this basis, I firmly believe in medium and long-term growth of chain production." Dr. Bertram Kandziora, STIHL executive board chairman, added: "The extension is a sign of the confidence we have in the successful future of the saw chain business – and that means here in Switzerland." Governing councillor Bruno Damann expressed his appreciation: "We are lucky to have companies like STIHL in the canton of St. Gallen. Companies that are not influenced by the general trend and set an example of confidence in a somewhat difficult economic climate." Mayor Susanne Hartmann thanked STIHL for its investment decision and for its loyalty to the location: "We are pleased and honoured by the trust that you have placed in the town of Wil and the municipal council."

Environment friendly energy concept for greater efficiency

In the course of building the extension some 16,500 cubic meters of earth were excavated, 900 tonnes of reinforcing steel used, 5,500 cubic meters of concrete poured and 350 tonnes of structural steelwork erected. At the same time, an environment friendly energy concept was implemented. The entire building and many of the production pro-

cesses will be heated with the aid of a heat recovery system and a heat pump which utilize the waste heat from air compressors and production machinery. There is no need for an additional boiler or the use of fossil fuels. This energy concept helps save about 1,500 megawatt hours of electricity and up to 400 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Therefore, the extension “also benefits the environment”, said Dr. Bertram Kandziora.

STIHL saw chain production as a success factor

STIHL is currently the only chainsaw manufacturer in the world to develop and produce not only powerheads, but also its own guide bars and saw chain. “That is a decisive success factor and is evidence of our claim to deliver premium quality in all areas”, said STIHL executive board chairman Dr. Bertram Kandziora. The saw chains are exported to 160 countries throughout the world. Due to a constantly growing demand, the Swiss facilities have steadily expanded over the past few years. At the present time some 850 men and women are employed at the STIHL chain production plants in Wil and Bronschhofen.

Company Portrait

The STIHL Group develops, manufactures and distributes power tools for professional forestry and agriculture as well as for garden and landscape maintenance, the construction sector and the demanding private user. The range of garden power tools from VIKING complements the product line. Products are distributed exclusively through authorized dealers, including 36 sales and marketing subsidiaries, about 120 importers and more than 40,000 servicing dealers in over 160 countries. STIHL has been the world's top-selling chain saw brand since 1971. The company was founded in 1926 and is based in Waiblingen near Stuttgart. In 2015, STIHL achieved a worldwide sales volume of 3.25 billion euros with a workforce of 14,245.

This press release and pictures are available for downloading from the STIHL website at <http://www.stihl.de/tages-wirtschaftspresse.aspx>

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