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The REMONDIS Group magazine

REMONDIS **AKTUELL**

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On its way to becoming a key industry

Recycling is driving economic growth

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Not just a question of selecting the right word
The way we talk about recycled raw materials must also reflect their superiority

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Recycling plastics is hugely important for keeping our environment safe

Job done!
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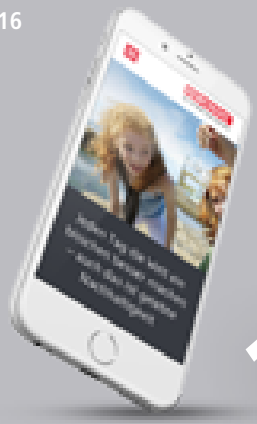

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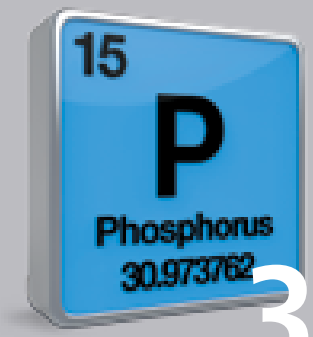

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WATER

PEOPLE

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Ludger Rethmann, REMONDIS Board Member

Dear Readers!

The refugee crisis, caused by the war in Syria, has awakened Europe from a deep slumber. Individual member states are outdoing each other – introducing one uncoordinated measure after another as they attempt to stem the seemingly never-ending flow of people desperately seeking help. Whilst Chancellor Merkel is hoping to bring about a European solution, others are closing their borders and seriously thinking about exiting the European Union. No matter where you look, people are saying the party is over. It is time now for facts rather than emotions to be brought to the table. Germany has around 81 million inhabitants and its economy has never been so good. Approximately one million refugees had entered the country when the state elections were held in Baden-Württemberg, Saxony-Anhalt and Rhineland-Pfalz on 13 March. To use the same metaphor: if 81 people are invited to a party and they are joined by one international guest, then the party is by no means over. On the contrary, there is a great opportunity here for the new guest's culture, experience and vitality to enhance the event and make it even more interesting.

As Germany's population continues to fall, demographers are assuming that the country will need around 500,000 new immigrants every year simply to keep its social security system functioning. In the future, therefore, we may find ourselves being grateful each time a migrant decides to stay and do an apprenticeship in our country. What is needed is genuine integration. The Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and Inclusion in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Rainer Schmeltzer, recently published a brochure in four languages so that refugees could find out how the public transport system works in the district of Unna. Whilst talking to one of REMONDIS' board members, he called on the recycling sector to do something similar. The majority of the migrants have little or no experience of using different coloured bins to separate waste. REMONDIS has stepped up to the mark and published a flyer in German, English, French, Farsi and Arabic. We would also be very pleased to receive applications from registered refugees wishing to do an apprenticeship at our company, for example to become a professional truck driver.

If the state of North Rhine-Westphalia were to be a country in its own right, then it would be among the top 10 European nations when it comes to population figures and economic power. The latest waste management report shows that our industry has become one of the biggest drivers of growth. Whilst traditional industries, such as coal, steel and energy, continue to decline, an ever increasing number of people are working in recycling, industrial and municipal services and water management. REMONDIS is both a driving force and the backbone of this really pleasing development. And what makes REMONDIS what it is, is its almost 31,000 employees who work for their local inhabitants and their municipal and industrial customers in 34 countries every single day. Looking at all this, it is a shame that politicians would appear to be paying so little attention to the IFAT exhibition which is being held in Munich from 30 May to 03 June. REMONDIS is going to be there even if the Federal Minister of the Environment is not. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours

Ludger Rethmann

On its way to becoming a key industry

STUDIES UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

The number of global initiatives looking to promote sustainability has been steadily rising. One of the consequences of this development is that the green economy is also growing in significance. Indeed it is not only being appreciated more by society, it is also playing an increasingly important role in the country's economy as a whole. Two studies published recently have revealed that this sector – previously just a niche market – has long since become a major industry.

Conserving natural resources, curbing global warming, managing water resources: these are just a few of the many facets of the environmental sector. However, as the lines between the different fields are not as distinct as in other industrial sectors, a more detailed analysis is often needed to reveal the true size of this industry. The Statistical Offices of the Länder and the Ministry for the Environment for the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) recently worked their way through extensive databases to evaluate the importance of the environmental sector in Germany – and the findings are impressive.

114 billion euros

The turnover of the green economy in Germany (relating to services, goods and technology that protect the environment) in 2012

Adding value to the economy

The Statistical Offices of the Länder published their calculations in the autumn of 2015. According to their report, the overall turnover of businesses operating in the green economy in Germany and offering services, goods and technology to protect the environment lay at around 114 billion euros in 2012. This meant that their total turnover was not far off that of the chemicals industry, which generated a turnover of 136 billion euros in the same year.

If the range of green activities is extended a little, then this figure is even higher. The Green Economy Report North

From resource management, to material efficiency, to eco-friendly energy: REMONDIS operates in a number of different areas within the green economy

+ 6%

The overall number of employees working in the industry increased by 6% between 2009 and 2012

Rhine-Westphalia – also published during the second half of 2015 – not only included companies that offered products and services which protect the environment but also those selling environmentally friendly and resource-efficient products and services. Based on these statistics, the total turnover of the green economy in Germany amounted to 326.6 billion euros in 2012.

The green economy creates jobs

According to the Green Economy Report, approx. 1.6 million people were employed by firms operating in the environmental sector in 2012. What is great to see here is the speed that new jobs are being created in this sector, with the overall number of employees increasing by 6 percent between 2009 and 2012 – twice the rate that the number of employees rose by in the overall economy. The amount of people working in the environmental sector is growing at EU level, as well. The statistics published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, reveal that 4.3 million people were employed full time by this industry in 2012, almost 9 percent more than in 2009.

Patent applications show high levels of innovation

One of the key features of the green economy is that its services and products are helping to master some of the biggest challenges faced by society today. To be able to continue along its successful path, it needs to develop pioneering concepts and innovations. The sector is closing in on the established key industries in this area, too: the number of patent applications relating to the green economy across the country amounted to 4.8 patents per 1,000 employees in 2012. It applied, therefore, for the same number of patents as the engineering sector.

Growth will continue

The economic importance of the environmental sector will increase in the coming years as climate change targets become ever more ambitious and environmental standards ever more stringent. North Rhine-Westphalia is one of the German states to have recognised the true potential of this sector. The Ministry for the Environment for NRW is planning to have invested around 800 million euros in the green economy and in preventing climate change by 2020. One of its goals here is for this to have helped create 100,000 new jobs by 2025. NRW Minister for the Environment Johannes Remmel commented: "This is not something that politicians can do by themselves – the companies must help out here. Politicians can, however, ensure the right conditions are in place for this happen."

One in every 20 people working in North Rhine-Westphalia is employed in the environmental sector. This industry, therefore, employs a much greater number of people than other key sectors such as engineering, car manufacturing or chemicals

The number one choice: recycled raw materials

A GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF TOP QUALITY MATERIALS WITH THE ADDED BONUS OF BEING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Speech is a powerful tool. It allows us to describe our world and make us understand what is happening around us. The correct choice of words can completely change the way we see things. Sometimes, however, we find ourselves continuing to use the same old terms out of habit even though they no longer reflect the current situation, fall short of reality or are simply wrong. 'Secondary raw materials' is just such a term. This expression was first used many years ago – back when people still believed in virtually unlimited growth and an endless supply of raw materials. 'Primary' stood for new, good and expensive, 'secondary' for used but cheap. We know better now. Our reserves of raw materials are finite and the only things that are enjoying unlimited growth are the world's population and our environmental problems. Time to have a rethink and select a better choice of word.

Speech not only describes reality, it also shapes it. We need new terms and expressions to get a fresh perspective

The Austrian poet and philosopher Ernst Ferstl once wrote – loosely translated – "People who act out of habit and get too comfortable on their carpets can hardly expect them to take off and fly". To continue in the same vein, our tendency to hang on to old expressions is preventing us from adjusting the way we perceive things – something we need to do urgently – and so is getting in the way of us changing the way we behave. We would, therefore, be well advised to stop using the anachronistic term 'secondary raw materials' and replace it with a much better description, namely 'recycled raw materials'. Not an easy task to stop such a firmly established term being used all the time. The only way to persuade people to come round to this idea is to provide them with hard facts and there are more than enough of these around.

Recycled raw materials

In fact, it doesn't take a lot of imagination to see that recycled raw materials are far superior to the so-called primary raw materials:

Recycled raw materials are available on home markets and help make local industrial businesses less dependent on imports!

It is often said, with a certain amount of pride, that 14% of the total volume of raw materials needed by manufacturing businesses in Germany are supplied by the recycling sector. Looking at global warming and our environmental problems the question here should really be: Why only 14%?

Recycled raw materials are much better for the environment!

Hardly any land is consumed to produce recycled raw materials. No-one has to first dig large holes in the ground to extract 500 tonnes of copper ore to produce just one tonne of pure copper. That amount of copper can be found in a good 10 tonnes of e-waste.

40 times less energy is needed to produce recycled raw materials, helping to cut carbon emissions!

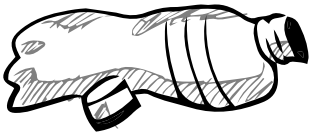
Huge amounts of energy are required to produce copper, aluminium, iron and other metals from their various ores, all of which leads to high levels of carbon emissions. A fraction of the energy is needed to produce the same quality of raw materials from recycling processes. Up to 8% of the crude oil processed in Europe every year is used to make plastics. No crude oil is needed for recycled plastic. If the shorter transport routes are also taken into account, then it becomes very clear that all recycled raw materials are a much better and far more sustainable option as far as preventing climate change is concerned.

Recycled raw materials are more socially acceptable!
Companies that purchase recycled raw materials sourced from local volumes of waste are also helping to reduce the overexploitation of raw materials in politically unstable countries with their social inequalities and ineffective environmental laws – and the often catastrophic effects such overexploitation has on local communities and the local environment. Recycled raw materials are raw materials that involve neither child labour nor exploitation.

Recycled raw materials are of the same high quality!
No matter how many times a metal is smelted down, it remains the same metal with no loss in quality. Even materials, such as paper and plastic, can be recycled efficiently a number of different times and are a suitable and sustainable source material for various types of product, no matter which stage of their life cycle they may be at.

Recycled raw materials are easier to procure, lowering the pressure on local industrial businesses to find source materials!
'That which is postponed is not dropped' and this also applies to the price of oil and other raw materials. Our planet's growing population is more than cancelling out any gains in efficiency we may achieve – the so-called rebound effect. Those who wish to continue to have cost-effective and sustainable production processes in the future will have to increase the amount of materials they buy from local, environmentally friendly sources.

Recycled raw materials safeguard industrial locations in Europe and secure jobs!
Looking at the medium-term picture, industrial locations will only be able to survive, if they have access to affordable raw materials that have been produced with as little impact as possible on both our environment and climate. This is particularly true for countries, such as Germany, that have so few natural raw materials of their own and expect their production activities to meet stringent environmental standards. Recycled raw materials are the only true source for a sustainable future.



"We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive."

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), German American physicist, Nobel Prize 1921

A meaningful eco design directive should make it a requirement to use sustainable raw materials. The long-term aim must be for industrial businesses to publish the efforts they are making to achieve sustainable development and for them to announce with pride that they are increasing the amount of recycled raw materials used to make their products. At the end of the day, environmentally responsible consumers want to know whether the product they are using has been produced with clean, sustainable and climate-friendly processes. There really is only one way to meet all these requirements: to use recycled raw materials!

Clean energy and quality compost in Freiburg

ORGANIC WASTE DIGESTION PLANT WITH NEW TUNNEL COMPOSTING SYSTEM AND PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

The biogas plant owned by RETERRA Freiburg GmbH, a fully owned subsidiary of REMONDIS South Region, was first commissioned in 1999. From here, RETERRA processes around 32,000 tonnes of organic waste from private households on behalf of the City of Freiburg and the District of Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald. Moreover, it also recycles small volumes of organic waste from commercial businesses. The plant uses state-of-the-art technology and produces 4.7m cubic metres of high quality biogas every year. The majority of the biogas is transported by pipe to the combined heat and power (CHP) plant run by Badenova in Freiburg-Landwasser where it is transformed into electricity. The waste heat generated by this process is captured and used to heat the district of Freiburg-Landwasser. The remaining biogas is turned into electricity and heat by the CHP plant on RETERRA's Tullastraße site. Those living in Freiburg, therefore, have one of the most efficient organic waste digestion systems around.

10,000,000 kWh

of eco-friendly, carbon-neutral electricity are generated from the biogas at RETERRA Freiburg GmbH

3,000 households

This is sufficient to cover the requirements of around 3,000 local households

All in all, the biogas produced by RETERRA-Freiburg GmbH generates approx. 10,000,000 kWh of eco-friendly, carbon-neutral electricity. This is sufficient to cover the requirements of around 3,000 homes in the city and is helping the region to achieve their goal of switching over to renewable energy. The way biogas is used in Freiburg-Landwasser is extremely energy efficient and is becoming a role model thanks to the way it combines biogas, landfill gas and bio natural gas. "RETERRA Freiburg's ongoing supply of gas to the district of Landwasser has been an important component of the council's strategy to reduce its carbon footprint ever since the plant was commissioned in 2011," explained Freiburg city councillor Gerda Stuchlik who is responsible for environmental matters. The agricultural industry continues to benefit from the approx. 13,500t of liquid digestate generated by the biogas plant every year. This saves the farmers having to buy in large quantities of mineral fertiliser and helps protect the region's soils and rivers. The additional 8,500t of compost are sold from the site to local residents, gardening and landscaping businesses as well as to farmers.

Large sums of money have been invested in the site over the last few years to ensure it meets all technical and legal requirements. Besides switching a number of individual machinery components, the company has also had a new storage hall built as well as a large silo that is able to hold 4,000m³ of liquid digestate. Moreover, the work to extend the offices and staff rooms and to convert the delivery chutes has been completed as well.

The latest highlight of this investment project is the completion of the new curing area including an additional tunnel composting system and new technology to process the compost. The solid material left over after the digestion stage will now be stabilised in fully enclosed, climate-controlled composting areas. Once the treatment stages have been completed, the finished product will then be processed into high quality compost using the new screening machinery. "We have, therefore, been able to further improve the quality of the compost," commented REMONDIS managing director, Aloys Oechtering. "Soil improvers from biogas plants are rich in nutrients and are perfect for gardening and landscaping businesses." Now that all the new technology has been installed, the site meets all of the requirements set out in the 'EEG' (Federal Renewable Energy Act).

Ongoing investments in the site ensure the plant reaches the highest possible levels of efficiency – and that it fully complies with the Federal Renewable Energy Act

RETERRA®

"RETERRA Freiburg's ongoing supply of gas to the district of Landwasser has been an important component of the council's strategy to reduce its carbon footprint ever since the plant was commissioned in 2011."

Gerda Stuchlik, Freiburg city councillor responsible for environmental matters

RETERRA produces clean energy and top quality compost in the city itself. Our thanks go to all those living in Freiburg who have welcomed this facility as being an important part of its Green City

Premiere in Hamburg

OPERATIONS BEGIN AT THE PIONEERING PET RECYCLING PLANT

One of the most modern PET recycling plants in Europe can now be found in the north German city of Hamburg. Located on Wilhelmsburg, an island in the River Elbe, it was commissioned during the first quarter of 2016 and is able to produce up to 20,000 tonnes of flakes from used plastic drinks bottles. The PET flakes can be sent straight on to manufacturers to make new products.

More than 66 billion PET bottles were recycled across Europe in 2014. Recycling rates, therefore, have risen by more than 8% in five years

When plastics are recycled for re-use, it is extremely important that the various different kinds of plastic are first separated from each other. All this involves a complex separation and cleaning process. The new PET recycling plant, therefore, primarily comprises three individual sections: the sorting area, the wet grinding mill and a washing area.

A multi-stage process

Once the compacted bales of disposable PET drinks bottles arrive at the plant, they are taken to the sorting area. The system there automatically sorts the materials, removing the plastic caps, plastic film, loose labels and any other contaminants. Moreover, the bottles are separated into two fractions: one with clear bottles and the other with coloured bottles. To be able to do this work, the plant operates both ballistic separators and optical sorting equipment. The bottles are then ground into flakes in the wet grinding mill. Once this stage has been completed, the flakes are transported to the washing area where they are hot washed and dried and any remaining labels, residual glue, metals and unwanted types of plastic are removed.

The new PET recycling plant is easily accessible as it is located in Hamburg Harbour

The 4,000m² building used to store incoming materials can hold more than 2,500 tonnes of used plastic bottles

A raw material for new products

The flakes of PET produced by this process have a wide range of uses. They are sent as a raw material to manufacturers of plastic film, bottles, non-food packaging, packaging tape and plastic fibres. The other types of plastic removed during the recycling process – such as screening residue, self-adhesive labels and the ground plastic caps can also be re-used once they have undergone further treatment.

The PET recycling activities in Hamburg are part of the portfolio of services offered by Rhenus Recycling GmbH, a subsidiary jointly owned by Rhenus and REMONDIS. This joint venture, which is being run by the two sister companies, founded Rhenus PET Recycling GmbH to pool together and unite its PET bottle recycling expertise under one roof.

Cooperation work with REMONDIS

The technical planning work for the new recycling plant was also a joint effort between Rhenus and REMONDIS – and this collaboration of minds has proven to be very successful.

One of the special features of this plant, for example, is the way the process water from the hot washing stage is treated so it can be re-used, reducing volumes of wastewater to an absolute minimum.

A further feature increasing sustainability at the site is its combined heat and power plant that is able to supply the whole of the facility with additional electricity and heat. The site's grounds cover a total of two hectares and 12,500m² of this space have been dedicated to buildings and covered areas for housing the plant's technology and the large volumes of raw materials and finished products.

Huge volumes of returned bottles

Around 40 million tonnes of PET bottles are produced around the world every year making them the most popular form of drinks packaging. Over 450,000 tonnes of used PET bottles are collected in Germany alone each year. Which makes it all the more important to set up suitable recycling systems in this sector so that the product life cycles can be fully closed.

RHENUS LOGISTICS

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The new recycling centre in Hamburg is Rhenus PET Recycling's third plant

"Consumers really like PET bottles. Thanks to our new recycling plant in Hamburg, we are well prepared to meet the complex requirements involved in recycling such materials."

Ralf Mandelatz, managing director of Rhenus Recycling Hamburg

Components of sustainability

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES FOR RECYCLING PET ARE BECOMING EVER MORE IMPORTANT

Recycling bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) not only helps conserve our planet's natural resources, it is also an effective way of curbing global warming. REMONDIS aktuell spoke to Prof. Thomas Rieckmann from the TH Köln (Cologne University of Applied Sciences) about the latest developments in this field. He is considered to be one of the pioneers of PET recycling having focused on this subject for over two decades, during which he has held a number of positions including that of R&D manager in the plastics industry.

Commercial PET recycling in Germany began at the beginning of 2003 when deposits were first charged on PET drinks bottles

Professor Rieckmann, PET recycling is believed to be a great way of promoting sustainability. What are the main advantages for the environment?

One of the biggest plus points is the low amount of energy needed to recycle the material – giving it a considerably better carbon footprint. Moreover, recycling means less plastic ends up in landfills. Around 31% of all waste plastics in the EU are still being sent to landfill. Very few EU member states have banned this practice.

Is PET more difficult to recycle than other types of plastic?

Compared to polyolefin plastics, such as PP, PET is a very complex material to process. Thanks to its properties, however, it is possible to recycle it and restore its original performance characteristics. This is not possible with polyolefin plastics, such as PVC, PE and PP, as they have undergone chemical reactions that are irreversible. The performance characteristics of products made from these recycled plastics are generally not as good as those made from virgin material.

"One of the biggest plus points is the low amount of energy needed to recycle the material – giving it a considerably better carbon footprint."

A specialist for PET recycling: Prof. Thomas Rieckmann, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Plant Technology at the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne

For the most part, the PET bottles – which have been returned to shops – are already relatively well sorted. Is it possible to recycle used PET bottles from commingled collections, for example bottles from the recycling bags or recycling bins?

Yes, this is possible – from a technological point of view. At the TH Köln, for example, we're currently in the process of developing a system to produce the PET molecule elements, DMT and ethylene glycol, from mixed coloured PET bottles. It's possible to use every colour here as a raw material including opaque bottles and brown multi-layer bottles.

Whether it is economically viable to separate and remove the PET from the other materials in the recycling bags and bins depends on what percentage it makes up of the overall contents. It also very much depends on the price of crude oil.

What are the PET flakes produced by mechanical recycling systems actually used for?

Recycled PET flakes are primarily used to make drinks bottles, plastic film, plastic filament, staple fibres and plastic strapping.

Over 66 billion PET bottles were recycled in Europe in 2014. Does this mean that the end of the road has already been reached in Europe?

That depends on the prices of the PET monomers, i.e. the basic chemical components of this plastic, as well as on energy costs. For years now, PET has – more often than not – been the packaging material of choice for food and drinks such as water, soft drinks, beer, milk and wine. The amount of PET needing to be recycled is, therefore, likely to continue to increase.

Can PET be endlessly recycled?

No, endless recycling is not possible simply because of its physical and chemical properties. PET chemistry can be described as a network of eleven chemical reactions. A number of these reactions result in thermal degradation and discolouring, both of which are unfortunately irreversible and so can't be undone. The only properties that can be completely restored are the main reactions of the PET synthesis. All this means that fully closed material and recycling cycles are simply not possible. Looking at the technology available on the market today, approx. 40% to 50% of the material needed for bottle-to-bottle recycling must be virgin PET.

Cutting-edge technology is needed for bottle-to-bottle recycling

How do you personally see the PET recycling sector developing?

Well, looking in my crystal ball, I can see more recycled PET being used for drinks packaging and other types of food packaging over the medium term. If future developments make it possible for terephthalic acid (TPA) to be replaced with a monomer from renewable raw materials, then this should also increase the volume of food packaging made of polyesters.

31%

Around 31% of all waste plastics in the EU are still being sent to landfill

Job done!

REMONDIS MASTERS A HUGE CHALLENGE IN THE REGION AROUND HANOVER

The region around Hanover has more than 600,000 households and 19 individual local authority districts and covers an area as large as the Saarland. Last year, REMONDIS took part in a tender process to collect recycling bags from the regions around Hanover and was awarded the contract in July 2015. It actually took over the work from the municipal waste management company, Abfallwirtschaft Region Hannover (aha), at the beginning of this year. Which meant the company had just five months to set up the logistics and infrastructure needed, to plan the collection routes, to order the vehicles and to put together a team of 60 people – from dispatchers, to drivers, to workers for loading the vehicles. In the end, they had just four weeks to do their practice runs before their work began in earnest.

The company's regular fleet has 23 collection vehicles; at peak periods, however, up to 29 vehicles were on the road

REMONDIS stepped up to the mark – without knowing where the public recycling banks and private storage places were and without knowing what individual agreements had been reached between the previous collection company and the local residents as to when and where individual bags were to be left. It was inevitable that a few things were going to go wrong. The drivers and those loading the vehicles had to get to know their areas from scratch, travelling down their routes and taking note of as many details as possible about the private storage places and public recycling banks. These details were then incorporated into their routes so that they could further optimise their system whilst carrying out their everyday work and adapt it to their daily routines.

600,000 households

The Hanover region has more than 600,000 households and 19 local authority districts and covers an area as large as the Saarland

60 employees

The company had just five months to put together a team of 60 people, to order the vehicles and to plan the collection routes

As was expected, things did not run as smoothly as the local residents and REMONDIS had hoped at the beginning. Especially as a number of other factors helped to aggravate the situation even further: aha, for example, had last collected the sales packaging from some of the districts in the middle of December because of the Christmas holidays. The amount of recycling bags that needed to be collected from these local residents had been building up so that the volumes of waste were much bigger than had been expected during the first few weeks. And then winter arrived, four days into the new contract. REMONDIS was held up by snow and ice. There was chaos on the roads for days on end.

What's more, several of REMONDIS' teams found a large number of containers with locks on them in front of a number of buildings, for which the keys had not yet been handed over. And then there was the problem of the yellow recycling bags being thrown into the orange wheelie bins. It was obviously normal for local residents to put their waste packaging into the orange recycling bins which aha had introduced back in 2012. Which meant that REMONDIS was faced with the problem that it had no legal right to empty the bins or indeed even to touch them.

Problem upon problem and in a region where, over the last 15 years, waste has become a highly emotional issue as local politicians have repeatedly brought up and discussed the subject of waste management rather than talk about the way local authorities manage their work. Other REMONDIS businesses gave a lending hand as the employees at the new business in Langenhagen (from where the teams start their daily collection trips) searched for ways to solve these problems. Branches from across the whole of north Germany sent members of their staff to help the team through this critical initial phase as well as to help them optimise their routes. They sent both vehicles and experienced teams.

These "temporary" workers came from Gifhorn, Wildeshausen, Bremerhaven and Hildesheim to assist their new colleagues and help them through the Herculean task of ensuring that the recycling bags were collected from the region each and every day. Everything was running smoothly by the middle of February.

"Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our colleagues for their extraordinary efforts and dedication."

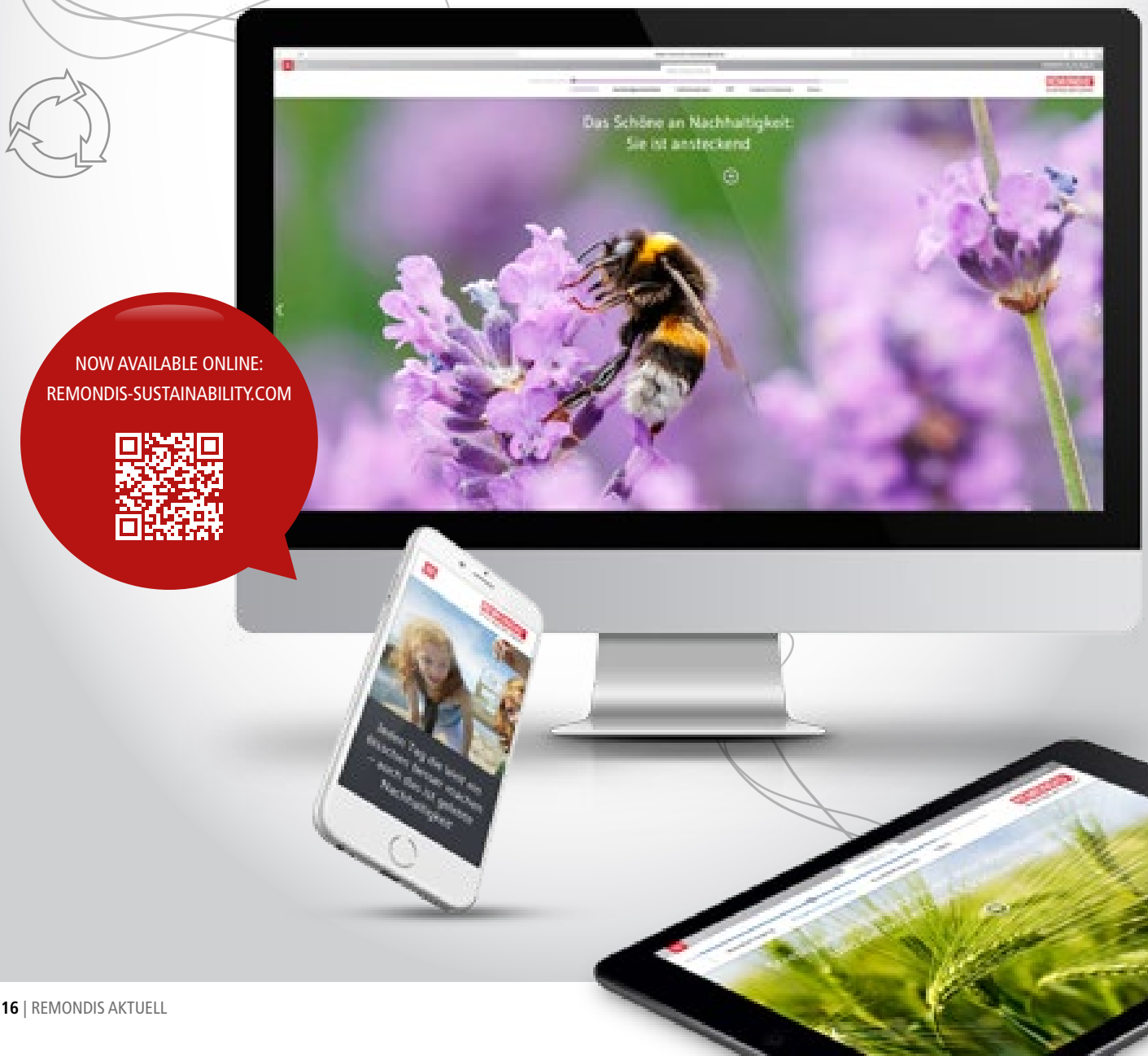
At peak periods up to 29 vehicles were on the road. The company's regular fleet currently comprises 23 collection vehicles. The company's policy of being open and transparent, its intensive talks with local politicians and its consistent complaints system (with the company calling back local residents who had been put on hold for too long during the first few weeks) all helped to halt the growing resentment and calm the situation down. All problems were solved within just seven weeks ensuring that a reliable service is now in place to collect the recycling bags in one of Germany's largest collection regions – a huge logistical feat that very few other recycling companies other than REMONDIS would have been able to master. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our colleagues for their extraordinary efforts and dedication.

The employees were determined to get to grips with the challenging situation

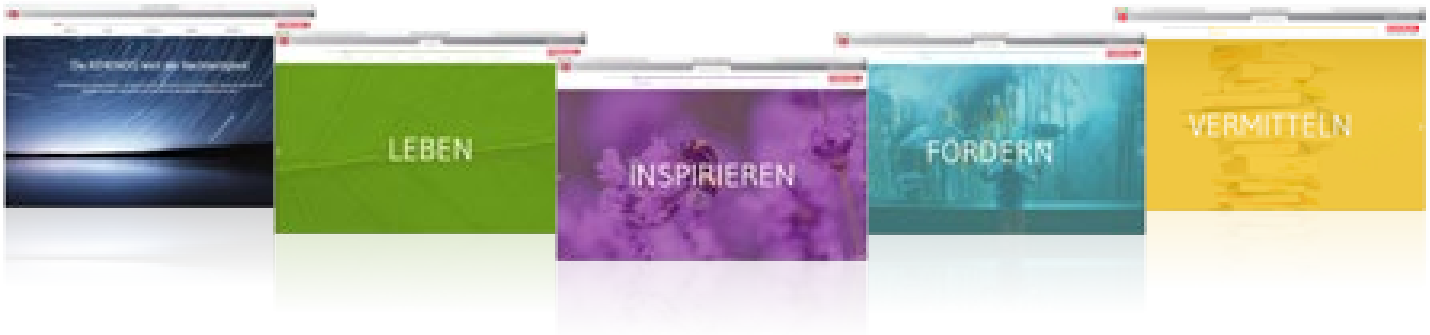
Lasting values – now online as well

REMONDIS LAUNCHES A WEBSITE FOCUSING ENTIRELY ON SUSTAINABILITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainability and sustainable development are not only the focus of REMONDIS' business, they are also an incentive for it to do more. All this has been documented in the company's new sustainability website. This latest online project presents the measures and in-house guidelines implemented at REMONDIS to promote sustainable development and takes a wider look at the subject, for example, at how it is perceived by society as a whole and its future prospects. Its primary goal is to provide the user with a wide range of facts about this interesting and highly topical subject.



One website – Five sections
Acting // Living // Inspiring // Fostering // Sharing



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Not only interesting but entertaining, too

The aim of the website is to be both informative and entertaining, with much attention being put on it being intuitive and user friendly. Users can, for example, choose between skim reading the content by clicking on different motifs to reveal short texts or calling up more detailed information. Elaborately designed charts have been placed throughout the site which can also be downloaded. The users' experience is further enhanced by the site's full-screen and responsive design which has been optimised for desktop computers and tablets. The whole website can, of course, be viewed via smartphones.

Extensive editing work required beforehand

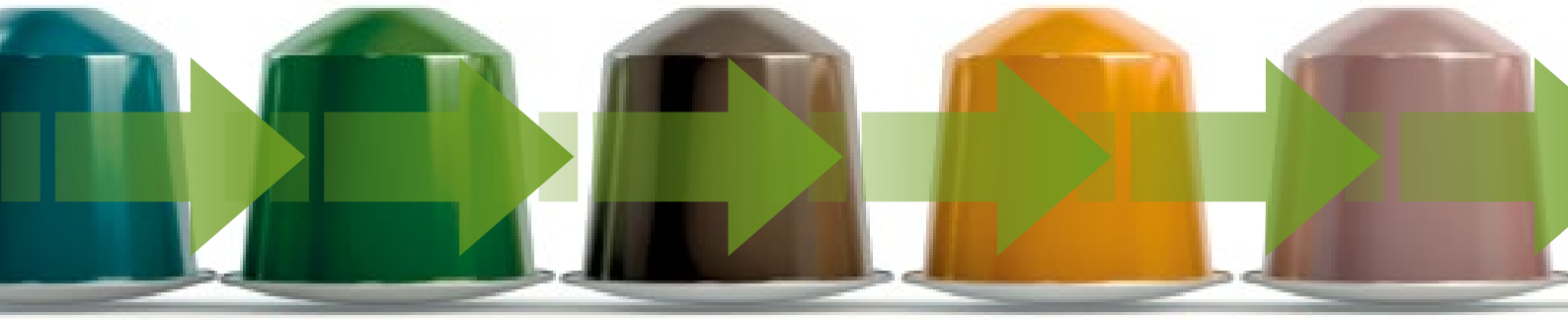
The sustainability website project was designed and developed with all of the REMONDIS Group's companies in mind. The coordination work needed beforehand to set up the website was, therefore, extensive. The task was, after all, to pool together the information contributed by the 700+ business locations in 34 countries to create a clear overview. 'Clear' here primarily means user friendly as Pia Rohlmann, responsible for all sustainability matters in the corporate communications department at REMONDIS, pointed out: "We wanted to create an information platform that is as detailed as possible but still easy to understand. Which is why we deliberately decided not to use the classic subsections of ecological, economic and social sustainability but a structure that more closely reflects the lives of those using the website."

More than just an advertisement

The website is not just about documenting the way REMONDIS promotes sustainability in its various fields of business. The final section – the fifth chapter "Sharing" – demonstrates this perfectly. Here, users can find a wealth of background information – for example how German, European and global sustainable development strategies have changed over the years, some interesting facts about the efforts being made to curb global warming and the SDGs. Even the other chapters, however, that directly involve REMONDIS take a look at the bigger picture. "The idea behind this website was to show what is happening at REMONDIS at the moment as well as to take a look into the future. Just one example here is the presentation of the Cradle to Cradle design concept which is calling for products to be designed so that absolutely all of their components can be recycled," explained Johanna Spinn, head of marketing and corporate communications at REMONDIS. In fact, this statement also perfectly describes what REMONDIS is aiming to get across with its new website – that sustainability is not a state but an ongoing process. Making this process at REMONDIS even more transparent in the future – that, too, is one of the missions of remondis-sustainability.com

> "We wanted to create an information platform that is as detailed as possible but still easy to understand." Pia Rohlmann, REMONDIS Marketing

The informative charts – for example REMONDIS' network of plants and facilities – can be downloaded as a PDF



Recycling coffee capsules

NESPRESSO AND REMONDIS NETHERLANDS ARE SHOWING HOW IT'S DONE

The market for coffee capsules is growing all around the world. An ever growing number of people are choosing to buy coffee pod machines so they can make themselves a fresh cup of coffee whenever they want one. Hollywood actor George Clooney is also a fan and has been advertising Nespresso coffee capsules for years now with his "What else?" slogan. He is, therefore, promoting a brand that unites premium coffee with high standards of sustainability.

13
Al
aluminium

A popular material: aluminium is one of the most important industrial raw materials around – new uses are being found for it all the time

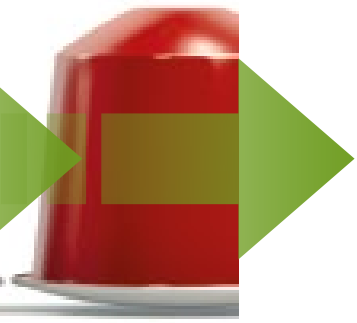
Nespresso is considered to be the pioneer of the coffee pod sector. The company, a division of the Nestlé Group, launched these popular coffee capsules onto the market 30 years ago. Soon after, it began setting up a global recycling scheme for the used pods. Collection and recycling systems were created wherever its customers were unable to return their used pods via established national collection schemes. As is the case in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, where Nespresso has established an exemplary recycling system with REMONDIS' support.

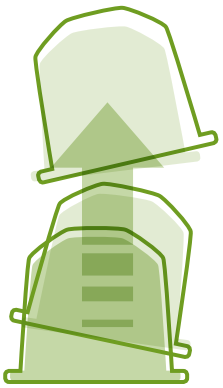
95%

Up to 95% less energy is needed to recycle aluminium than to produce it from ore

Cross-border collection scheme for the Benelux countries

A variety of options are available to customers wishing to return their used pods to provide them with a convenient service as well as to ensure the pods are collected separately: they can drop them off at the Nespresso Boutiques, arrange to have them collected from their home when they place a new order or take them to special collection points. REMONDIS' subsidiary, Dusseldorp, is responsible for organising the collection and transport of this material stream in the Benelux countries. The company picks the capsules up once a week – both from the Dutch Boutiques as well as from the central collection points across the whole of the Benelux region where the couriers leave the returned capsules that they have collected from the customers' homes.





100%

The company's goal is to be recycling absolutely all of its used coffee pods by 2020

Recovering the aluminium

REMONDIS-Dusseldorp then transports the capsules to the Dutch town of Lichtenvoorde where it operates a recycling facility that is able to separate the pods' aluminium from the coffee grounds on a grand scale. This highly effective and successful plant was set up especially for this purpose. One of the reasons for the plant's great success is the actual design of Nespresso's capsules. Unlike its competitors' products, the whole of the Nespresso pod – whether it be the lid or the capsule itself – is made of aluminium which makes it ideal for recycling. As the purity levels of the separated aluminium are so high, it can be compacted or melted down and then sent straight to aluminium-processing businesses – further treatment is not necessary.

Used coffee perfect for energy and fertilisers

The spent coffee grounds can also be recycled. These are fed through a digester with a downstream composting facility that is operated by ARN, a company based in Nijmegen. ARN, in which REMONDIS owns a share, can use this material in three different ways: to generate biogas, to produce compost and to make CO_2 fertiliser. For the fertiliser, the carbon dioxide, generated by the treatment process, is discharged as a liquid and used for growing plants under glass.

Recycling targets already reached

Nespresso has been collaborating with the REMONDIS Group's companies in the Netherlands since 2009. Over the years, this cooperation work has steadily been expanded. Mark Ruijgrok, country business manager, explained: "We have made concrete and tangible advances right from the beginning. These, in turn, have helped to make Nespresso even more sustainable. And sustainability is an integral feature of our company philosophy – both in the Benelux countries as well as in all other countries around the world."

Nespresso currently recycles a good 80 percent of its used coffee capsules worldwide. As far as these coffee specialists are concerned, this is an important milestone but there is still room for improvement. The Swiss company has raised the bar that little bit further with its sustainability strategy, "The Positive Cup": they wish to offer their customers the world's best and most sustainable cup of coffee. Its goal here is to be recycling 100 percent of their used coffee pods by 2020. This target has already been achieved in the Benelux countries and in neighbouring Germany – together with REMONDIS. "What else?" as George Clooney would say.

The coffee grounds can also be recycled. They can be transformed into energy and fertiliser

REMONDIS and EGR launch a new take-back scheme: 'WEEE Return'

TAKE-BACK SCHEME IN LINE WITH 'ELEKTROG2' LAW: SERVICES FOR SHOPS AND ONLINE / MAIL ORDER RETAILERS

REMONDIS Electrorecycling has joined forces with Elektro-Geräte Recycling GmbH (EGR) and will soon be offering shops and online retailers a new take-back scheme: 'WEEE Return'. The partners decided to set up this service in response to the amendments made to the 'ElektroG' law (German waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations) that came into force on 24 October 2015.

The legislator has decreed that online retailers must take back old electrical and electronic appliances from July 2016 onwards

This amended law, the so-called 'ElektroG2', regulates how electrical and electronic equipment may be distributed on the market, how it must be taken back and what steps must be taken to ensure it is recycled using environmentally sound methods. These latest changes are causing quite a headache for online retailers. How, in practice, can they fulfil their legal obligations and take back unwanted or broken electrical appliances? The transitional period has not finished yet but – as of 24 July 2016 – they and all other retailers must take back WEEE and ensure it is transported and recycled properly. Two well-known international WEEE recycling specialists, REMONDIS and EGR, have stepped up to the mark and are offering them sustainable, cost-effective and easy-to-implement solutions. Up to now, product responsibility – and consequently the obligation to take back electrical and electronic equipment at the end of their useful lives – has primarily lain with producers and importers. The 'ElektroG2', however, has extended this obligation to include retailers in order to increase collection rates. From 24.07.2016 onwards, every shop with an electrical and electronic equipment sales area greater than 400m² and every online retailer with an electrical and electronic equipment storage/dispatch area greater than 400m² must take back small WEEE (less than 25cm on their longest side) – irrespective of whether the customer purchases a new appliance from their shop or not. The following regulation applies for larger appliances: retailers must take back waste of the same type as the item their customers buy from them and ensure it is recycled properly.

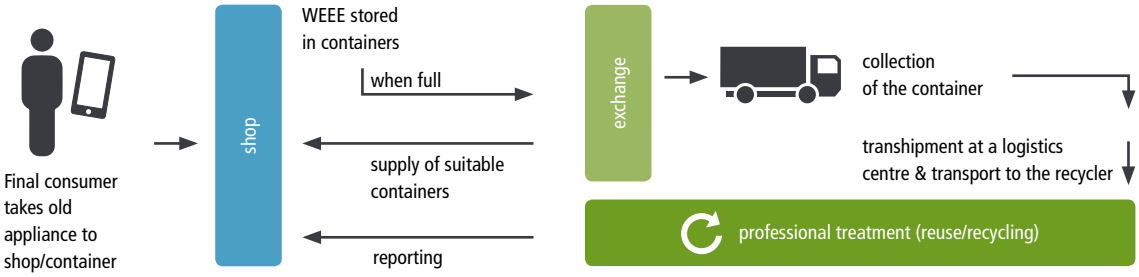
All retailers

High street shops (if EEE sales area is > 400m²)	Online/mail order shops (if EEE storage/dispatch area, also external, is > 400m²)
Like for like Retailers must take back waste of the same type as the item their customers buy from them, no restrictions, e.g. small EEE	**Small WEEE** Retailers must take back small WEEE (< 25cm on their longest side) irrespective of whether the customer purchases a new appliance

In the future, therefore, practically all electrical stores and department stores will have to set up various different containers for collecting and storing the different categories of WEEE. At the same time, the law stipulates that online retailers must make it possible for their customers to hand in their old appliances at a place within a reasonable distance. There may be a little room here for interpretation but what is clear is that a national network of collection points will have to be set up parallel to the recycling centres already being run by local authorities. "Retailers – and especially those running online and mail order businesses – will need a high level of IT support and many specialist processes to implement these new regulations," explained Gerhard Jokic, a managing director at REMONDIS and head of the 'WEEE Return' project. "This is precisely what we will be offering them with our WEEE Return scheme. Our services range from transporting the wide range of container systems,

"WEEE Return helps retailers to fulfil their new legal responsibilities and offers a wide range of support – from IT matters, to providing suitable container systems, to collecting, transporting and recycling the appliances, all the way through to compiling reports."

Gerhard Jokic, Managing Director at REMONDIS and Head of the 'WEEE Return' project



to ensuring the WEEE is sent for high quality recycling, all the way through to compiling the reports – supported by a user-friendly, web-based platform to fulfil the various registration and notification obligations as well as to control and monitor the material streams." The portfolio is rounded off with a number of additional services for the retailers, such as handling all registration obligations with the 'Stiftung EAR' (the national coordination centre), helping to reduce their customers' admin work.

With the 'ElektroG2' now in force, Germany is one of the last member states to transpose the EU WEEE Directive into national law. The same rights and obligations, therefore, can be found across all 28 EU states, although each country has transposed them slightly differently. This means, among other things, that online and mail order retailers must have someone in place to handle all queries and fulfil all obligations on their behalf in every EU country in which they sell their products, if they do not have a branch there. Not a problem for WEEE Return members, as those running WEEE Return have long-standing business relationships, reliable cooperation partners and their own network of branches. This full range of services is being provided by the experienced recycling specialists REMONDIS and EGR, whose areas of expertise complement each other perfectly. REMONDIS operates WEEE dismantling centres at a number of locations in Europe to recover valuable raw materials – including copper, aluminium and non-ferrous metals. At the same time, they use complex processes to safely remove all hazardous materials found in the appliances and then send these substances on to be disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner. Being part of the global dataserv Group, EGR can guarantee high recycling rates at 'WEEE Return' when it comes to IT appliances. This group successfully markets used smartphones, PCs, tablets and laptops after the devices have been restored to their original factory settings. Before such devices are remarketed, all personal data is wiped from the appliance using accredited procedures and in line with the strictest security standards.

Experience is needed to offer a full range of services. REMONDIS and EGR have joined forces to support their customers

Georg Bator, Managing Director of Elektro-Geräte Recycling GmbH (EGR)

Network grows in Thuringia

REMONDIS INDUSTRIE SERVICE ACQUIRES A CHEMICAL/PHYSICAL TREATMENT FACILITY IN SCHLEIZ

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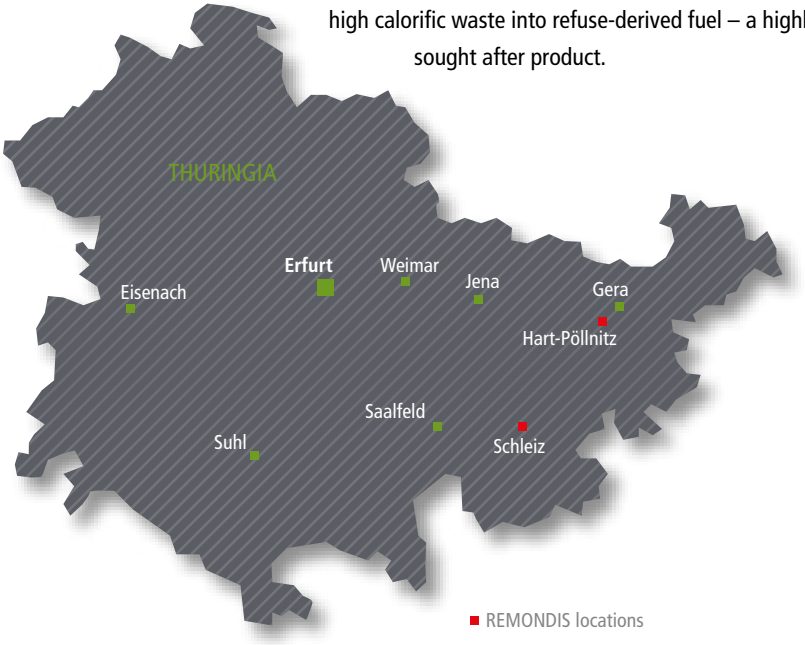
REMONDIS Industrie Service is one of the leading specialists in Europe for handling and treating dangerous substances. The company has around 40 business units in Germany. A new location has now joined its network which specialises in treating hazardous waste and storing it until it can be sent on for recycling or disposal.

REMONDIS Industrie Service – a company with a strong logistics infrastructure and state-of-the-art plants and facilities

This new business is situated in the town of Schleiz in the east of the state of Thuringia and operates a chemical/physical treatment facility for liquid hazardous waste. Such materials include, for example, the contents from oil and petrol separators and grit chambers as well as acids and alkaline solutions. It also has a conditioning plant for processing liquid, solid and semi-solid fractions. This turns the high calorific waste into refuse-derived fuel – a highly sought after product.



The state-of-the-art storage facilities in Schleiz enable the company to safely store the various hazardous materials until they can be sent on for recycling or disposal. All analytical work is carried out by the site's own laboratory.

This business had previously belonged to Thüringer Sonderabfall Wertstoff Recycling GmbH (TSWR). Besides acquiring the premises with its machinery and equipment, REMONDIS has also taken on all of its employees and customer contracts.

One of the advantages of this business is the fact that it is located in an industrial estate right next to the motorway. This will give REMONDIS Industrie Service an excellent base from which it can expand its range of services. The company is looking to intensify its operations both in the south east of Thuringia as well as in the neighbouring regions.

Acquisition of the Cortek Group

NETWORK OF BRANCHES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE EAST OF GERMANY CONTINUES TO GROW

The Cortek Group, a company based in the German city of Weißenfels, was taken over by REMONDIS at the end of last year. This acquisition has helped strengthen REMONDIS' presence in this region which is located in Saxony-Anhalt, close to the borders of the German states of Thuringia and Saxony. This new firm offers a wide range of services that complements REMONDIS' portfolio perfectly.

CORTEK
WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

The Cortek Group owns three recycling businesses: Cortek Gesellschaft für Recycling und Entsorgungsleistungen mbH in Weißenfels, UMTECH Entsorgungsgesellschaft mbH in Zeitz and Zentrum für Wertstoffverarbeitung Mitteldeutschland GmbH in Schkopau. It also operates from premises in Gera and Pößneck.

Specialists for commercial waste

The Cortek Group's wide-ranging portfolio primarily comprises services covering commercial waste. It also, however, performs demolition and remediation work – such as removing asbestos cement and excavating and replacing soil and earth. Cortek uses the various material streams it collects to produce recycled aggregate, soils, bark mulch and compost as well as refuse derived fuels for industrial businesses and combined heat and power plants. Moreover, the company group collects and transports hazardous waste and offers street cleaning services.

Expansion of branch network

Thanks to its acquisition of the Cortek Group, REMONDIS has succeeded in growing its operations in the southern part of the state of Saxony-Anhalt as well as in the neighbouring states of Thuringia and Saxony. REMONDIS has had its own branches in this region for many years now. Its main area of business, however, has involved household waste. By purchasing Cortek, therefore, it has succeeded in strengthening its position in the commercial waste sector. The takeover also included the technology and fleets of vehicles at the new locations.

One of REMONDIS' priorities is on being located close to its customers. Having local branches means shorter routes, greater accessibility and maximum efficiency

Neu-Augustusburg Castle in Weißenfels is one of the largest Early Baroque castles in central Germany and is a well-known landmark in the city where REMONDIS' new business is located

Prestigious awards in Australia

REMONDIS HONOURED FOR ITS EXEMPLARY TEAM SERVICES ON THE FIFTH CONTINENT

REMONDIS has been operating in Australia for over 30 years now and has become one of the leading waste management and recycling businesses in the country. Over the years, awards have been presented to the company, further underlining the fact that it is the employees that play a decisive role in the business' success and rapid growth. One recent example of this is the 'Excellence in Business Award'.

35
branches

27
plants

REMONDIS Australia operates a network of 35 branches and 27 plants and facilities

The 'Excellence in Business Award 2015' was presented to REMONDIS by the Illawarra Business Chamber, a leading organisation for businesses in the Illawarra region of New South Wales. This prize is externally judged and awarded on a company's strategies and plans to achieve growth as well as the actual business growth over the last 24 months. The jury was also impressed by REMONDIS' outstanding health, safety and environmental performance. Moreover, they praised its service excellence and its partnerships with community-based organisations such as Rotary International. Luke Agati, managing director of REMONDIS Australia commented: "It is a great honour for our company to be presented with the Excellence in Business Award. It not only endorses the work we have achieved so far but will also spur us on to do even more in the future."

"It is a great honour for our company to be presented with the Excellence in Business Award. It not only endorses the work we have achieved so far but will also spur us on to do even more in the future." Luke Agati, Managing Director of REMONDIS Australia

Best Australian Truck Driver

A further award was handed out in the north-east state of Queensland. REMONDIS employee Cary Franzmann was named 'Best Professional Industry Driver'. He was presented with his certificate by the Waste Recycling Industry Association Queensland during an awards ceremony in Brisbane. Summing up why he had been elected, the jury said: "Cary has driven over one million kilometres accident free. His commitment to the industry makes him an ideal trainer and role model to those in his profession."

Chris Wade, Head of REMONDIS' branch in Wollongong, accepting the award

Gliwice recycling centre acting as a role model

PPP PROJECT PROMOTES THE TREATMENT OF RECYCLABLE AND ORGANIC WASTE

The Śląskiego Centrum Recyklingu' recycling centre in the Polish town of Gliwice began operations at the beginning of the year. Being a public private partnership (PPP) project, it is making an important contribution towards optimising the recycling sector. It will, for example, ensure that the region fulfils the latest legal regulations and that it takes a big step forward towards reaching its recycling targets.

High profile guests at the opening of the recycling centre in Gliwice: (from left to right): Egbert Tölle, REMONDIS Board Member, Heinrich Zölzer, former supervisory board member of the RETHMANN Group, Karina Sternol, Assistant to the CEO REMONDIS Gliwice, Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the RETHMANN Group, Klaudiusz Siwiec, Chairman of the Silesian Chamber of Commerce, Piotr Lubos, CEO of REMONDIS Gliwice

Using EU directives as a basis, Poland is currently working on ensuring that its commercial waste is handled in a more environmentally sound manner and that it achieves higher recycling rates. If it is to succeed here, then it is vital that a suitable infrastructure is set up – a task that requires both know-how and capital. Many local authorities have, therefore, opted to collaborate with REMONDIS. As have the city authorities in Gliwice in the Silesian Voivodeship. They have been running a PPP company with REMONDIS for many years now. This central recycling centre is yet another PPP project in which the municipal landfill business owns a 49% share and the company a 51% share.

Covering an area of 2.5 hectares, the recycling centre is able to treat municipal waste using mechanical and biological processes as well as to recover recyclable materials and separate them into different fractions. Moreover, the site also operates a composting plant. Managing director Dr Dariusz Szyszka commented: "Thanks to the state-of-the-art technology at our centre, we are able to efficiently recover the recyclable contents and reduce the amount of material that has to be taken to landfill – especially the biodegradable fractions." The technology installed at the recycling centre will help the region to meet the more stringent legal regulations and is also setting the course for the future. One of Poland's goals for 2020 is for at least 50% of all waste paper, glass, metal and plastic to be recovered and recycled.

> "Thanks to the state-of-the-art technology at our centre, we are able to efficiently recover the recyclable contents and reduce the amount of material that has to be taken to landfill – especially the biodegradable fractions."
>
> Dr Dariusz Szyszka, Project Manager at Gliwice Recycling Centre

Poland's National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management provided financial support for the construction of the recycling centre as it, too, recognised just how important this project was for the region. Moreover, the centre has been officially certified as a RIPOK regional plant. Recycling facilities that have been given this status are particularly efficient and meet high environmental standards. From summer 2018 onwards, plants will only be allowed to operate in Poland if they have been granted RIPOK status.

REMONDIS is helping to set up a network of efficient plants and facilities in Poland. Three pilot projects involving recycling facilities have begun operations over the last twelve months alone – in Opole, Tarnowskie Góry and Gliwice

Official opening in Singapore

OPERATIONS OFFICIALLY BEGIN AT THE METAL RECOVERY PLANT DESIGNED AND BUILT BY REMEX

REMEX®
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REMEX's recycling facility in Singapore officially began its operations last December when guests were invited to attend an official opening ceremony and join in on a tour around the plant. This state-of-the-art facility is not only setting an example of how this nation, with its strong and highly developed economy, is promoting sustainability. It is also being seen as a showcase project the whole of Asia. Guest of honour at the event was Masagos Zulkifli, Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources.

REMEX's new recycling plant in Singapore can recover up to 90% of all metals from the IBA

The following video shows the different processes and technology being used at REMEX's new facility in Singapore:

Talking to the assembled group of guests and journalists, the minister explained just how important the issue of waste reduction was for both his government and Singapore. This new facility was, he said, a significant milestone in the country's efforts to become a zero waste nation. Looking at the growing importance of recycling waste to recover valuable resources, he added: "REMEX is an established player in Europe for metal recovery from IBA. I am confident that their experience in such operations will help ensure the success of this facility in the years ahead."

The new recycling facility being run by REMONDIS' subsidiary was built to process the incinerator bottom ash (IBA) from Singapore's four household waste incineration plants and to recover any metals contained in the ash. A good 90 percent of the ferrous metals and over three quarters of the valuable non-ferrous metals, such as aluminium and copper, will be able to be recovered and recycled – even the really small pieces like paper clips and bottle caps.

However, the recovery of the metal is not the only important feature of this facility for Singapore, which is so densely populated and has so few raw materials of its own. According to the plans of the country's National Environment Agency (NEA), the largest material stream from this plant – the processed IBA – should also be put to good use. The NEA is aiming to recycle it so it can be used as a building material, as is already being done in Europe. If processed correctly, the IBA can be turned into building supplies or recycled aggregate for road and earthworks projects. Something that not only helps conserve our planet's reserves of primary materials, such as sand and gravel, but also provides an alternative to sending it to landfill. During the opening ceremony, Environment Minister Masagos Zulkifli and Norbert Rethmann presented a building block made from processed IBA to show those attending the event just how much potential there is for recycling this material.

"The birth of this first-of-its-kind facility in Singapore is a fine example of how we harness technology to implement innovative solutions in waste management."

Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources

The official opening of REMEX's recycling facility in Singapore (from left to right): Environment Minister Masagos Zulkifli, Norbert Rethmann, honorary chairman of the supervisory board of the RETHMANN Group, and Venkat Patnaik, managing director of REMEX Minerals Singapore Pte. Ltd.

Herwart Wilms appointed member of the advisory board of the VDI Center for Resource Efficiency

Herwart Wilms, a managing director at REMONDIS Assets & Services GmbH & Co. KG, has been appointed a new member of the advisory board of the VDI Center for Resource Efficiency, effective from 01.01.2016. As its name suggests, the task of the VDI Center for Resource Efficiency is to help businesses to optimise the way they use their material and energy resources.

Resource conservation and resource efficiency are two of the primary objectives of the BDE (Federal Association of the German Waste Management Industry) and its member companies. The association has, therefore, welcomed the appointment of Herwart Wilms – who is also Vice President of the BDE – to the advisory board of the VDI Center for Resource Efficiency. This board advises the centre on content and strategy. Its members are elected for three years and appointed by the shareholders and the Federal Ministry for the Environment.

Herwart Wilms,
REMONDIS Managing Director

FIFA Organising Committee for Russia 2018 interested in working with REMONDIS

On 22 March 2016, the Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 held an event to look at waste management standards during the 2018 World Cup in Russia. The objective of the meeting was to develop efficient waste management concepts so that different types of waste could be collected separately at the football stadiums and fan zones. FIFA is placing great importance on ensuring that resources are handled responsibly during the upcoming World Cup and that strict environmental standards are adhered to. For this to succeed, a sustainable system for segregated waste collection must be set up in the cities hosting the games. Swetlana Bigesse, managing director of REMONDIS Russia, presented REMONDIS' recycling operations in the City of Saransk during the event held by the Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup. Saransk is one of the 11 cities that will be hosting the 2018 FIFA World Cup. REMONDIS has set up a system across the whole of the city enabling local residents to separate their waste and has also carried out extensive PR work to encourage those living there to embrace the scheme.

Swetlana Bigesse, Managing Director of REMONDIS Russia, presenting REMONDIS' waste management concept for the cities hosting the World Cup to the FIFA Organising Committee for Russia 2018

The Organising Committee for the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 had high praise for REMONDIS' segregated waste collection scheme in Saransk and has signalled that it is interested in collaborating with REMONDIS to ensure high waste management standards are implemented during the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Logistics concepts for a large refinery

BUCHEN SUPPORTS THE OIL COMPANY BP AT ITS SITE IN GELSENKIRCHEN

Last summer, BUCHEN began providing an extensive range of logistics services for one of the largest refineries in Germany. The company is in charge of waste management logistics, transporting materials between on-site facilities and handling all mail at the plant. REMONDIS West is also helping it to carry out the recycling work.

BP provides services for and sells products to millions of customers across Germany every single day with its BP, Aral and Castrol brands. The company operates refineries and produces fuels, heating oil and lubricants which are sold on to wholesalers and distributors as well as to final consumers via its petrol stations. BP runs its Scholven and Horst plants in Gelsenkirchen (a town situated in the Ruhr area) as an integrated refinery. Each year, it processes around 12 million tonnes of crude oil to manufacture over 50 different products: petrol, diesel, aircraft fuel, heating oil, bitumen and petroleum coke as well as a wide range of petrochemical products, primarily for the plastics industry.

Just like a small town

The various production plants at the two sites in Gelsenkirchen are spread over around 360 hectares – approximately twice the size of the state of Monaco – and belong to Ruhr Oel GmbH, in which BP owns a 50 percent share. Indeed the site functions just like a small town as it covers such an extensive area. This is particularly true when it comes to dealing with the complex material streams: it is essential that a sophisticated logistics network is in place if everything is to run smoothly there. This is where BUCHEN comes into play, providing its logistics services and helping to take the pressure off the site's operator by performing organisational tasks that only indirectly affect the production processes.

A wide range of refinery and petrochemical facilities: the Gelsenkirchen site has a complex system in place to process crude oil

Material flow management in cooperation with others

One of the company's three largest areas of work is waste management logistics which is handled by both BUCHEN and the regional company REMONDIS West. Both collaboration partners specialise in collecting and transporting all types of waste and the tasks have been clearly divided up between the two companies. REMONDIS West is responsible for all commercial waste including paper and cardboard. The various material fractions are first thrown away into a range of different containers, picked up according to a fixed schedule and then transported away for processing and recycling.

All other types of waste are collected by BUCHEN and taken to the relevant plant or facility. To be able to do this work, the company procured hundreds of additional containers for the refinery in Gelsenkirchen and invested in a number of new vehicles. BUCHEN UmweltService GmbH's Ruhr Region division is in charge of the actual operations.

Systematic material logistics

A further contract signed by BUCHEN covers all material logistics inside the plant. The tasks here are extensive, with components and machinery having to be moved between the on-site facilities, drums containing samples taken from A to B and technical equipment transferred from one place to another every single day. All these activities are organised and performed by BUCHEN's logistics team – a complex task that calls for high levels of flexibility and absolute reliability.

A smooth transition

Before starting this major contract, BUCHEN invested a considerable sum of money to ensure it could carry out the comprehensive logistics tasks in the best possible way. The preparation work, concept and implementation went perfectly: BUCHEN's services have become an integral part of the site after only a very short transitional period – to the great satisfaction of its client.

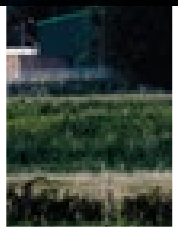
360 hectares

The production plants at the sites in Gelsenkirchen are spread over ca. 360 hectares – an area almost twice the size of Monaco

Four in one go

XERVON INSTANDHALTUNG MASTERS SEVERAL MAJOR PROJECTS ALL AT THE SAME TIME

Maintaining and operating production and infrastructure facilities in the process industry – these are the main areas of expertise of XERVON Instandhaltung GmbH. The company recently demonstrated just how extraordinary its capabilities are in this field when it took part in three refinery turnarounds and a project to convert a refinery. These complex large-scale projects all took place at the same time and all had extremely tight schedules.



Inspecting and overhauling refineries are a challenging time for all those involved. A whole range of complex interconnected tasks have to be performed under the strictest of safety standards and within the shortest of times – and delivered reliably, smoothly and according to schedule. All the work must be meticulously planned beforehand and then implemented perfectly if such projects are to be a success.

"Good planning is extremely important; what is key, however, is the team of people on site."

Thomas Kramel, Managing Director at XERVON Instandhaltung GmbH

Comprehensive expertise is needed to be able to carry out several turnaround projects simultaneously. To begin with, XERVON Instandhaltung has an extremely experienced and highly effective planning department which plans each and every individual task right down to the smallest detail. All the different resources are organised – from the number of operatives that will be needed, to the materials, to the technical equipment and tools.

One of the aces that the XERVON maintenance specialists have up their sleeve is their extensive capacities. Firstly they have a very large stock of tools and secondly they have a large pool of excellently trained specialists. Moreover, their own team of operatives can be joined by employees from their partner companies whenever they are needed. Thanks to these resources, the company was able to deploy over 1,000 operatives for the four projects which lasted a total of two months.

"Manpower and equipment are both extremely important in our business. Flexibility, however, is also key," explained managing director, Thomas Kramel. No matter how well such projects are planned and no matter how many years of experience a company may have, it is impossible to organise everything beforehand. There are always a number of tasks that crop up unexpectedly during such turnarounds that have to be sorted out within a short space of time. Thomas Kramel continued: "Our ability to react quickly to such circumstances is one of our strengths and one of the reasons why XERVON Instandhaltung has such a good reputation in this specialist field."

1st PROJECT

A shutdown at a large refinery in the north of Germany

XERVON Instandhaltung was responsible for all piping and all mechanical work during a turnaround project at a refinery in Hamburg, which lasted several weeks. Several hundred machine parts had to be dismantled, checked, repaired where necessary and then reassembled, including heat exchangers, vessels and control and safety valves.

2nd PROJECT

Conversion of a conventional refinery into a refinery for specialty oils

At the same time, the conventional refinery at the site was converted into a refinery for specialty oils. XERVON's maintenance experts played a major role in this project as well. Several hundred of the company's piping experts travelled to the site to construct pipes, perform welding work and install fixtures. They laid the pipes for the new plant sections and serviced the pipes in the old plant facilities.

3rd PROJECT

Münchsmünster industrial estate, large-scale turnaround at a refinery

A cracker and polyethylene plant – the centrepieces of the production operations – had to be inspected at a refinery located in Münchsmünster industrial estate. XERVON Instandhaltung works at this industrial estate as a general contractor. Its on-site team there was joined by a variety of other specialists for this project – including XERVON scaffolding experts, BUCHEN industrial cleaning specialists and BUCHEN ICS, a company specialising in handling catalyst.

4th PROJECT

Heide Refinery – turnaround project

Heide Refinery is the northernmost plant processing crude oil in Germany. XERVON Instandhaltung has a contract with the operators there to provide services whenever a turnaround is due and so are always on site during shutdowns. Besides carrying out the other three projects, therefore, the company also performed a wide range of tasks here as well – checking the heat exchangers, containers, air coolers, reactors and columns.

XERVON Instandhaltung provides a full range of services from infrastructure services, to services for rotating equipment and fittings, all the way through to shutdown and maintenance management

Award-winning teaching materials

THE RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS WITH NEW TEACHING MATERIALS AND TWO AWARDS

DIE WERTSTOFF PROFIS

At the beginning of the year, the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS added new teaching material for Years 7 to 11 to their programme in preparation for this year's didacta exhibition, which took place in Cologne between 16 and 20 February. This material includes 19 different teaching units on the subject of recycling and are suitable for all types of secondary school. The new units and all additional material can be downloaded free of charge from the internet by going to wertstoffprofis.de

The RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS are helping schools to shine the spotlight on environmental awareness

With its RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS, REMONDIS – a family-run recycling, service and water company from Lünen dedicated to conserving resources and curbing global warming – has created and implemented its very own educational initiative to help schools and kindergartens teach their children about the environment. The teachers, for example, can access an extensive range of free teaching materials about subjects such as waste, resource conservation and recycling for kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools up to Year 11. This cleverly constructed material – including group posters and workbooks for complete classes – is available online and is free of charge.

"In times when educational systems find themselves strapped for funds, professional private educational initiatives, such as the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS, can help schools to teach their children valuable practical knowledge."

Johanna Spinn, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications, REMONDIS

Prof. Günther Bachmann, General Secretary of the German Council for Sustainable Development (left) and NRW Environmental Minister Johannes Remmel (far right) presenting the "Werkstatt N" quality label to Pia Rohlmann, REMONDIS Marketing, and Yves Rene Wieloch, an apprentice at REMONDIS, during the DIDAKTA in Cologne

Awards for the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS

'Moving from a throwaway society to a recycling society' – the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS educational project has played a significant role in bringing about this transformation and this fact has been recognised by KlimaExpo.NRW. In February, it officially named the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS as an "engine for progress", adding them to its list of qualified projects in the area of "resource conservation". "There are huge volumes of waste which could still be recycled. Making the most of such waste not only helps to cut carbon emissions. It could also be used to produce enormous volumes of recycled materials. If this potential is to be used, then private households need to separate their waste better. Which is why our educational programme aims to teach children at an early age how they can protect the environment," explained Johanna Spinn, project manager and head of corporate communications at REMONDIS.

In addition to this, the Federal government's Council for Sustainable Development [Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung] recently named the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS as the "first holistic, nationwide educational project for recycling and resource conservation" and awarded it the quality label "Werkstatt N Projekt 2016" [Workshop N Project 2016]. Marleen Thieme, Chairwoman of the Council, concluded: "All of the award-winning initiatives are acting as important role models demonstrating how sustainability can be practised in the heart of our communities. They show in highly creative and innovative ways how people can act responsibly – together, in the business world and towards our environment."

In 2016, the Federal Council for Sustainable Development presented the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS with an award, recognising its role as an important educational project

wertstoffprofis.de

REMONDIS at the IFAT

REMONDIS AQUA'S TETRAPHOS® PROCESS NOMINATED FOR THE GREENTEC AWARD AHEAD OF THE EXHIBITION

REMONDIS®
WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

For 50 years now, businesses have been meeting in Munich every two years to take part in the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management. The international interest in the IFAT is overwhelming. The huge numbers of exhibitors and visitors make it very clear just how important this major international exhibition has become – an exhibition that has been focusing on intelligent recycling solutions, state-of-the-art recycling logistics and water conservation for many years now. Over 3,000 exhibitors from around 60 countries and more than 135,000 visitors from 168 nations will be travelling to the event, which will be covering a total area of 230,000m². REMONDIS AQUA's TetraPhos® process will be one of the innovations being presented to the visitors this year.

IFAT
resources. innovations. solutions.

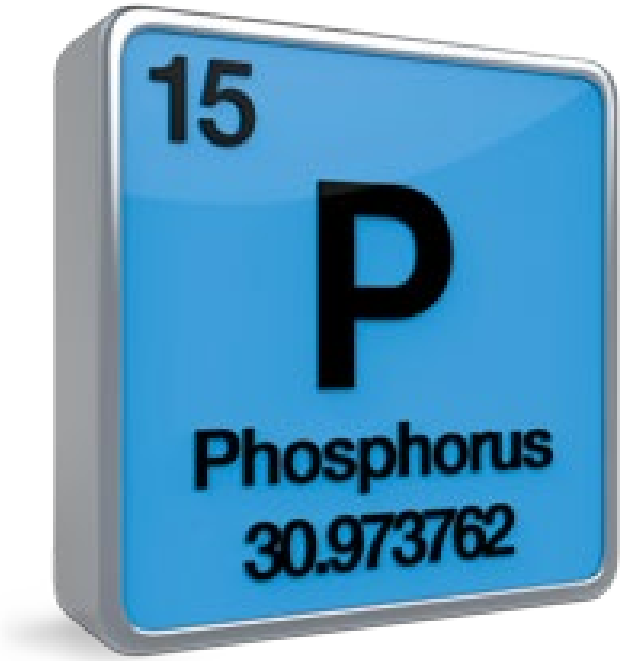
REMONDIS at the IFAT:
30 May to 03 June
Hall B1
Stand 251/350

The fact that the IFAT is such an international event makes it possible for interdisciplinary synergies to be created so that joint steps can be taken to increase quality of life and protect the environment right around the world. The exhibition is, therefore, making an important contribution towards shaping the future of our planet. The fact that REMONDIS' project, "REMONDIS TetraPhos® – Recovering phosphate from sewage sludge ash", has been shortlisted for the GreenTec Awards 2016 in the Category Recycling & Resources fits in perfectly here.

REMONDIS nominated for the GreenTec Award

Looking at the various environmental problems caused by spreading conventional sewage sludge on our fields as a fertiliser, it is only a matter of time now before this practice is stopped. REMONDIS' TetraPhos® process is an innovative way to solve two problems in one go: to protect our environment and rivers and lakes as well as to help counteract the imminent shortage of phosphate-based fertilisers. The winners of the GreenTec Awards will be announced during the awards ceremony which is being held in Munich on 29 May 2016, the evening before the IFAT opens. Simply being nominated shows that TetraPhos® is a genuine innovation that can help make our planet, our water and our soils that little bit cleaner and that little bit safer. People wishing to learn more about this process and about other services offered by the company can visit REMONDIS at the IFAT at its stand (251/350) in hall B1 from 30 May to 03 June.

A solution with a great potential



TETRAPHOS® PROCESS IS HELPING TO DRIVE FORWARD THE RECYCLING OF SEWAGE SLUDGE AND THE RECOVERY OF PHOSPHORUS

Phosphorus is an important raw material. This chemical element is unable to be produced synthetically and practically all of the phosphorus used in Europe has to be imported. REMONDIS has developed some pioneering processes to supply agricultural and industrial businesses with this substance – processes that are already being used and proving to be highly successful.

The German government has decided that sewage sludge should no longer be spread on fields as a fertiliser and that the phosphorus and other nutrients should be recovered from the sludge instead. This decision to stop sewage sludge being used as a fertiliser is controversial. Everyone, however, agrees that efforts to recover and recycle phosphorus must be increased. This is underlined by the findings of a study published recently by the trend:research institute on the future of sewage sludge recycling. According to the study, the research and development work carried out in the area of phosphorus recycling will play a decisive role in how this market will develop in the future.

Around 2 million tonnes of dewatered sewage sludge is generated in Germany every year which contains approx. 60,000 tonnes of phosphorus. A significant amount, therefore, which could be recovered and recycled – especially as natural reserves around the world are gradually being depleted and the quality of these reserves is deteriorating rapidly.

REMONDIS has been looking into this subject for many years now and has developed a number of processes that are creating the groundwork and setting standards for recovering phosphorus. Its intention here is to enable the phosphorus to be used as a fertiliser as well as for it to be supplied to industrial businesses as valuable phosphates.

Today's sewage treatment plants are supplying tomorrow's raw materials

The company's TetraPhos® process demonstrates REMONDIS' approach to this issue perfectly. Thanks to its patented system, high quality phosphoric acid can be produced from sewage sludge ash. This acid can be used to create phosphate compounds that, in turn, can be used to make fertiliser or animal feed or sent on to the chemicals and metal industry for manufacturing a whole range of different products. Besides the phosphoric acid, the TetraPhos® system also generates gypsum for the building supplies trade and iron and aluminium salts for treating wastewater. A further advantage: TetraPhos® can be operated on an industrial scale making it particularly cost effective.

P 15 PHOSPHORUS

60,000t

Around 2 million tonnes of dewatered sewage sludge is generated in Germany every year which contains approx. 60,000 tonnes of phosphorus

REMONDIS Aqua expands in Spain

OMS-SACEDE EXTENDS ITS PRESENCE ON THE SPANISH MARKET

OMS-Sacede, REMONDIS Aqua's Spanish subsidiary, has been operating in the Spanish water sector since 1979. This successful company employs 100 people and has been part of the REMONDIS Group since 2009, providing water management services for more than one million people living around the country. Over the last few months, OMS has been awarded contracts from a number of new customers, considerably expanding its area of operations.

Daniel Martínez Mustienes,
Director General of OMS-SACEDE

Water management plays a particularly important role in Spain as the country has such a dry climate

Based in Barcelona, OMS provides services covering all aspects of water treatment. These include planning and engineering work as well as building and operating facilities for treating wastewater, recycling sewage sludge and recovering energy, both for the public and the private sector. REMONDIS Aqua's subsidiary operates across the whole of the Iberian Peninsula although the majority of its business is in Catalonia, Valencia and Aragón. Most of its large municipal projects are located in these regions, with OMS running a variety of plants for its public sector clients. However, OMS can also, for example, be found in Zamora in the north west of Spain where, as part of a long-term concession model, it carries out wastewater treatment and operates the local sewage network for 130,000 local residents. Moreover, REMONDIS Aqua's subsidiary manages three of the four wastewater treatment plants in Andorra, the tiny principality found in the Pyrenees.

2015 was a particularly successful year as far as acquiring new customers was concerned – both in the public and in the private sector. OMS-SACEDE's ongoing strategy to strengthen its presence in the industrial sector is paying dividends now. It has, for example, just signed a five-year contract with Gelatines Juncà S.L, one of just a handful of companies in Spain that produce gelatin. OMS has been commissioned to build and operate an ultrafiltration plant to recover 80% of the production wastewater, which will significantly reduce water consumption at the plant.

OMS can be found in Zamora in the north west of Spain where, as part of a concession model, it treats wastewater and operates the local sewage network for

130,000 local residents

The next stage of the plan is, at some time in the future, to recover the gelatin from the wastewater – either for reuse or to produce energy. Once again, this project demonstrates perfectly how REMONDIS Aqua and its subsidiary, OMS-SACEDE, are helping its customers in Spain with their state-of-the-art technology and extensive know-how – helping them to make the very most of their wastewater by recovering recyclable materials or using its contents to generate energy.

Efficient water management is vital in Spain, especially in the south of the country which has a particularly dry climate. And things are no different at Quirante Fruits, a large manufacturer of juice concentrates that primarily supplies customers in the north of Europe, including Lidl and ALDI. Faced with the water shortage at its site in southern Spain, the company had first believed it would not be able to expand its production facilities. Thanks to OMS SACEDE, however, 80% of its wastewater will now be recovered and treated so it can be re-used to produce steam and as a cooling agent. The way is now clear for Quirante Fruits to extend its operations despite the water shortage in the region and without it impacting negatively on the environment.

Both these and other projects once again confirm that OMS SACEDE is one of the most important and most reliable partners for local authorities and industrial businesses in Spain – providing them with innovative water management solutions no matter what their requirements may be.

Treating wastewater and recovering and recycling substances found in the wastewater are two important services offered by the water management sector

WAL-Betrieb celebrates 10-year anniversary

REMONDIS AQUA HAS BEEN MANAGING ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL MUNICIPAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS FOR TEN YEARS NOW

25 January 2006 most certainly was a red letter day. This was the day that the representatives of the 25 local authorities belonging to the Wasserverband Lausitz water association met to vote on whether or not to grant a 20-year contract covering the technical and commercial operations of their plants and facilities to a private sector firm. 97% of those present voted in favour – the beginning, therefore, of their collaboration with the newly founded Wasserverband Lausitz Betriebsführungsgesellschaft mbH (aka WAL-Betrieb), a fully owned subsidiary of REMONDIS Aqua GmbH & Co. KG from Lünen. The contract was then officially signed in the ceremonial hall in Senftenberg Castle on 17 February. Ten years have passed since then and there are plenty of reasons for celebrating this anniversary. Despite the falling number of inhabitants in the region, WAL-Betrieb has succeeded in keeping fees and charges stable and has established itself as a particularly family-friendly employer.

Thanks to the PPP, the fees and charges paid by the local residents have remained stable for 10 years now

Several years had been needed beforehand to draw up the contract. First the resolution had to be passed by the association, then the project had to be put out to tender across Europe (a three-stage process) and finally the extensive contract had to be drafted. The association had decided to take this unusual step because its municipal business was going through such a difficult period at the turn of the century: high levels of debt, a continuous increase in fees and charges, an urgent need to invest in new machinery and equipment, a falling population and – according to a report compiled by a firm of consultants – a workforce that had too many employees (135 people).

Norbert Rethmann (4th from right) with the WAL board members and the management team and shareholders of WAL-Betrieb

Halfway through the contract and the situation is looking really good: all of the targets set out in the contract have been met by REMONDIS Aqua. There were two main points that were right at the top of the list when the decision was taken to hand over the technical and commercial operations to the privately run WAL: first that the plants and facilities should remain the property of the local authorities and second that the fees and charges paid by the local inhabitants should remain stable over a long-term period. The following goals were set for the external operator:

The privately run WAL-Betrieb has succeeded in increasing the size of its workforce

- Fees and charges should remain stable for a minimum five-year period, despite the fact water consumption was expected to fall and prices to rise
- The business should become more customer friendly and improve its services
- There should be no job cuts and apprentices should be allowed to continue their apprenticeships
- The company, based in Senftenberg, should extend its operations to other regions and strengthen the local and regional economy.

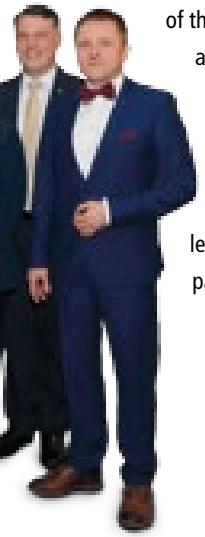
The results speak for themselves

After just ten years of running the business, REMONDIS Aqua's subsidiary WAL-Betrieb has already achieved all of these targets – winning over even the biggest sceptics.

- The fees and charges for drinking water and wastewater have remained stable for over 15 years and continue to cover the costs, even though the number of people living in the region has fallen and water consumption has dropped considerably.
- WAL-Betrieb has been awarded and re-awarded certificates for its business processes, in particular for its quality, environment and energy management systems, as well as for the way it enables its employees to have a good work-life balance.
- Over 90% of the company's customers pay via direct debit, putting it at the top of the list of the 28 firms taking part in the system in Brandenburg. A sure sign that the customers trust the business and are satisfied with the service they receive.
- WAL-Betrieb has not only kept its promise to keep all jobs and continue the apprenticeships but has gone much, much further. 160 employees now work at WAL-Betrieb. Moreover, the company was recently presented with a prize by the German state of Brandenburg in recognition of its above-average commitment to training young people and helping them choose a career. 36 apprentices have successfully completed their apprenticeships at the company since 2006.

Continuity & quality

WAL-Betrieb has been operating beyond the borders of the WAL Association for a long while now. Besides extending the number of commercial and technical services it offers in the drinking water and wastewater sector, it also provides clients with planning services. Mention should be made here of the support it gives numerous local authorities and utilities companies, helping them to set up and manage geographical information systems (GIS). Moreover, WAL-Betrieb in Senftenberg runs an international training centre which students from all over the world can visit to learn more about water management. The company has already welcomed many specialists from, for example, Turkey, Egypt, India and China. Dr Roland Socher, who has headed the association for fifteen years now, appears to be very relaxed whenever he is asked about the next ten years: "We had some very precise expectations of WAL-Betrieb when our cooperation work began and it has fulfilled them all in a truly impressive way. Credit must go to our employees for moving from the association to WAL-Betrieb and credit must go to REMONDIS. This development can also be put down to the great way the contractual partners work together." His forecast for the next ten years: "We have a highly competent water management company at our side. This fact will guarantee continuity and quality for our customers over the coming years."



Keeping rivers clean & protecting nature

ENERVIE SUPPORTS THE RETURN OF THE SALMON

Using hydropower to generate electricity and having ambitious plans to protect nature are not mutually exclusive – as can be seen by the operations run by ENERVIE, a company in which REMONDIS owns a share. ENERVIE runs eco-friendly facilities to produce electricity and extract drinking water and also supports a salmon centre run by volunteers.

In September 2014, REMONDIS Aqua became a shareholder in ENERVIE – Südwestfalen Energie und Wasser AG. The ENERVIE Group is one of the largest regional energy providers in Germany supplying around 370,000 customers (primarily in the south Westphalian region) with water, electricity, gas and heat.

ENERVIE operates numerous power stations, including a pumped storage hydroelectric power station and several run-of-river plants. Using water to generate electricity is helping the country to switch its energy supply from fossils to renewables. Over the years, the company has undertaken a number of steps to improve fish stocks in the rivers. A fish ladder, for example, was built along its run-of-river plant to allow the fish to migrate upstream. This ladder makes it possible for the fish to negotiate the differences in height created by the weirs.

Moreover, ENERVIE is supporting the voluntary association "Der Atlantische Lachs e.V." [The Atlantic Salmon], which is trying to save the Atlantic salmon by reintroducing them into rivers. Salmon stocks have been decimated over the last hundred years or so as their natural habitats have been destroyed and obstructions built along their migration paths. All this, however, should soon change. ENERVIE has made it possible for the association to set up one of the largest voluntary run salmon centres on the Hasper Dam.

The centre is located on the company's grounds and will breed and rear the fish until they are big enough to be released into tributaries of the River Rhine. From there, they will migrate to the North Atlantic until it is time for them to return to spawn. It will still be a while before salmon become an indigenous species in Germany – but the first important steps have already been taken.

Sustainable nature conservation: ENERVIE ensures the water in the rivers is of a high quality and supports a voluntary salmon centre on the Hasper Dam

10,000th Mercedes-Benz for the RETHMANN Group

What started in 1959 with the purchase of the first Mercedes-Benz truck by company founder Josef Rethmann Senior became a very special "stellar moment" at the beginning of this year – when the 10,000th Mercedes-Benz vehicle was officially handed over to the RETHMANN Group by the Mercedes-Benz plant in Wörth.

REMONDIS board member Thomas Conzendorf travelled to this special event to accept the truck on behalf of all three sister companies, REMONDIS, Rhenus Logistics and SARIA. The key to this anniversary vehicle was presented by Andreas Schmid, head of Mercedes-Benz truck sales and services in Germany: "We want to sincerely thank the companies of the RETHMANN Group for their confidence in the Mercedes-Benz brand over the past five-plus decades. We will continue to be fully committed to justifying this confidence and to advancing our products and services to the satisfaction of the customer."

The truck in question was a Mercedes-Benz Arocs 3236 L 8x4. This 32-tonne vehicle has a particularly clean 10.7-litre OM 470 Euro VI engine rated at 265 kW (360 hp). With its automated Mercedes PowerShift 3 transmission, it embodies fuel efficiency and minimised CO_2 emissions and delivers a top performance on the road. Thomas Conzendorf, REMONDIS board member, commented: "As a corporate group, we are of course very proud to be able to take over the 10,000th vehicle from our long-standing partner Mercedes-Benz today – but we are equally proud of our outstanding carbon footprint. One of our goals – as we strive to achieve greater sustainability – is to reduce pollutant emissions. Which is why our fleet only has trucks that can deliver the best operational efficiency levels and this vehicle is most definitely in that category."

German MP Astrid Grotelüschen visits Wildeshausen branch

Whether the business in Simmerhausen on the A1 motorway experienced difficulties after it "lost" the household waste collection contract in the District of Oldenburg in 2003 was just one of the questions asked by the Mayor of Prinzhöfte Hans-Hermann Lehmkuhl when he and Astrid Grotelüschen, a member of the Bundestag, visited the branch. A good opening for Arend Cobi, head of the municipal division at REMONDIS Region North: "This is an important location for our company and it has a secure future." This was not something that could be taken for granted however. Despite the growing trend of local authorities to nationalise services, the company has been able to keep the number of jobs at the branch and its Oldenburg composting plant at about the same level – at present there are 68 people working there, explained branch manager Peter Schröder. The business was forced to rethink its strategies after it lost its household waste contract during the tender process. "It wasn't easy but we've done it," Peter Schröder said. The branch, which is situated south west of Bremen, handles about 20,000 tonnes of recyclable waste every year. A number of subjects were discussed during Astrid Grotelüschen's visit including this trend towards remunicipalisation and the new recyclables law. REMONDIS is worried about the way private sector recycling companies are losing their share of the market but welcomes public private partnerships as they are a great way for the public and private sectors to work together on a level playing field. "Our experience of such joint ventures has been really good," commented Arend Cobi.

Branch manager, Peter Schröder (3rd from right) and Arend Cobi (2nd from right), a member of the municipal division management team/Region North, spoke to German MP Astrid Grotelüschen (2nd from left) and her party colleagues Stefan Wachholder, Hans-Hermann Lehmkuhl and Hartmut Post (from left to right) about remunicipalisation and the new recyclables law during their visit to REMONDIS

A strong woman

ANDREA THIELEBEULE DRIVES REMONDIS' TRUCKS IN HANOVER

Andrea Thielebeule wanted to get things moving. Which is why the 31-year-old decided to enter a profession that many boys dream of: becoming a driver of heavy goods vehicles. For ten years, she drove 40-tonne trucks and HGVs across Europe. "The job was great fun but it can also get quite lonely over time," explained Andrea Thielebeule, who comes from the German town of Neustadt. She decided, therefore, to leave the "great freedom" of long-haul trips behind her and find a secure job in the private sector with the recycling specialists REMONDIS so that she could spend her evenings in her own home. Since the beginning of this year, Andrea Thielebeule has been collecting the recycling bags from households around Hanover and is, therefore, the first woman to be driving a collection truck in the Hanover region.

"I really like my job. And not only because I have regular working hours. What is just as important is that I'm part of a team again. And one with great future prospects," she continued. At the beginning of 2016, REMONDIS began collecting the recycling bags from households located in the districts around Hanover on behalf of the DSD organisation and will continue to do this work for the next three years. The bags had previously been collected by the municipal waste management business, aha.

"It wasn't the first time I'd thought about changing from long-haul to day trips and I did in fact apply to a municipal waste management company operating in this region many years ago. They, however, didn't want a woman on board – and most certainly not behind the wheel – because the members of the team had to load the waste onto the truck," commented Andrea Thielebeule. She is, though, more than capable of throwing the recycling bags into the truck's compactor section: "I've picked up far heavier loads in my time."

Born in Hanover, she originally did an apprenticeship at the utilities company in Neustadt to become an industrial mechanic. She was taken on by the company after she had qualified where she worked in their division responsible for building underground pipe networks. It was during this time that she developed her interest in large road construction machinery and trucks. She had passed her truck driving licence by the age of 22 and, from then on, has devoted her time to driving vehicles that have more than four wheels. When she's not working, she spends time diving or riding her horse. REMONDIS has had a branch in Hanover since 1995 and is well established on the market there, collecting and recycling industrial and commercial waste. It was clear that there would be a few teething problems when the company took over such a large territory covering the surrounding regions of Hanover. Unfortunately, this also included some of the drivers deciding to leave. Andrea Thielebeule, though, is still at the company and doing an excellent job on behalf of the local inhabitants every single day. She is, quite simply, a strong woman.

> "I really like my job. And not only because I have regular working hours. What is just as important is that I'm part of a team again. And one with great future prospects." Andrea Thielebeule, professional truck driver

> Impressions

Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the RETHMANN Group, with Heinrich Zölzer, former supervisory board member of the RETHMANN Group, and Luke Agati, Managing Director of REMONDIS Australia, during a visit to Brisbane, Australia

Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the RETHMANN Group, with Andreas Bankamp, Managing Director of REMONDIS Aqua, celebrating WAL-Betrieb's 10-year anniversary

The extension work on REMONDIS' new head office building in Lünen is well underway

Pia Rohlmann, REMONDIS Marketing, and Yves Rene Wieloch, an apprentice at REMONDIS, presenting the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS project during an interview at the didacta exhibition in Cologne

A get-together of REMONDIS' IT department headed by Josef Broesterhaus, REMONDIS Managing Director (far right)

REMONDIS®

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

The only thing our throw-away society is discarding is its own future

Conserving our planet's natural resources is not only what REMONDIS is all about, it is also an incentive for us to do even more. Which is why we are doing everything in our power to ensure future generations also have access to valuable raw materials – with our cutting-edge recycling technology and the know-how and expertise of our 30,000+ employees. Find out more about why we are one of the most sustainable companies in Germany by going to **> remondis-sustainability.com**

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Image: Getty Images, Adam Graddy Photography