

Grass – Environment May 2011

Grass also treading new and innovative paths in environmental protection.

Since the end of 2010, the GRASS Group has been ISO 14001 certified in accordance with the International Environment Management System. GRASS's high degree of environmental consciousness, and the resulting projects, reach back many years, and that for a very good reason: they are a natural extension of the GRASS corporate and product philosophy:

“Furniture serves our comfort in life, our lifestyle and our attitudes to life. Some furniture accompanies us through our entire lives. It is Grass's passion to provide the perfect movement solution for every piece of furniture. It is Grass's ambition to produce these movement solutions in such a way that the system itself, as well as the entire production process, best serves Life.”

“The conscious handling of resources is becoming noticeable everywhere, and with the certification we have documented our responsibility to our environment, the present and the future.”

Thomas Müller, Technology and Development Manager, Spokesperson for Corporate Management.

Environmental Protection with System

The certification in accordance with ISO 14001 has enabled GRASS to steer its many environmental projects into a common direction and structure. Since the certification, all environmental aspects of GRASS locations have been evaluated with key performance indicators; further improvement potential has been explored and improvement goals defined. These efforts serve to achieve the further reduction of emissions, the minimisation of energy applications and the optimal use of energy, the economic handling of resources such as water, the reduction of traffic volume, the avoidance of waste, and much more. GRASS's aim thereby is not only to adhere to the provisions of the certification, but also, as in the past, to show initiative and move forward with progressive ideas.

Over two-thirds less CO² emissions in Hoechst. CO² neutral heating facilities in Goetzis.

In connection with the new Production Hall South construction in Hoechst, GRASS installed its own natural gas block heating power station. This environmentally friendly power plant enables GRASS to generate the bulk of its required electricity itself and at the same time make use of the waste heat to heat in the winter. By means of heat recovery, it has been possible to lower heating requirements by 60%, and the CO² emissions by up to even 70%. In order to utilise the waste heat of the Hoechst block heating power station also in the summer, GRASS installed an absorption refrigerator. The cold air thereby produced is used to keep halls and facilities cool during the summer months. As a result of these measures, an electricity savings of 559,200 kWh per year was realised, or as much electricity as over 150 single family homes would use on average per year. The Grass production in Goetzis has been connected to the public district heating network, thereby capturing the heating energy and partially capturing the lower process energy.

Economical handling of resources

The environmental orientation at GRASS is visible and tangible in many areas. GRASS engineers make use of all the possibilities offered by modern development and production technology for the implementation of innovative product ideas. New coating technologies, for example, have enabled GRASS to reduce the use of clean water by up to 3,000m³ yearly, compared with conventional methods. Through the collection and re-use of scrap metal, GRASS saves 3,000 tons of this valuable resource per year. In the past year, GRASS established key performance indicators for all conceivable potential savings, with the main focus currently on the areas of energy and waste. As a result of this, the complete waste disposal system was newly organised.

Facts:

GRASS-Group

Grass is one of the leading developers and manufacturers of innovative movement systems for high grade furniture, with 2 locations in Vorarlberg (Hoechst and Goetzis) and 1900 employees worldwide.

And figures:

Employees in Vorarlberg: 956

Apprentices in Vorarlberg: 60

Total revenue 2010: 285.4 million Euro

Planned investment 2011: 42 million Euro

GRASS environmental management is monitored by a neutral body.

Under photo of 3 managers:

The management of the international GRASS Group stands for the progressive and sustainable development of the company. Thomas Müller, Manager Technology and Development, Frank Nessler, Manager Sales and Marketing, Christoph Walter, Manager Finance and Administration.

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Movement is Green.

Active environment protection means understanding the present as part of the future.

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