

Feldkirchen bei Graz, 14/09/2018

PRESS INFORMATION

From liquid waste to clean water — new Saubermacher plant goes live

Modern procedures, optimised processes and consideration for the neighbours — Saubermacher's new treatment plant for industrial and commercial waste water in Trofaiach represents the state-of-the-art. Chemical and physical processes convert liquid waste substances such as acids, lyes and oil/water mixes into clean water, with micro-organisms responsible for final purification. The company has invested some eight million Euros in the high-tech plant, which has the capacity to treat up to 25,000 tonnes of waste every year.

Turn old into new — and better! It was with precisely this in mind that Saubermacher set about reconstructing the CP treatment plant¹ to meet the most stringent of environmental standards. The plant, used to treat problematic liquid waste products, had been badly damaged by a fire in June 2017. 'Our focus was not only on using state-of-the-art technical systems, but also on the needs of our neighbours. We've accommodated many of the outdoor operations in enclosed halls. The waste air purification plant has also been overhauled and now satisfies the state of the art,' explains Hans Roth, the founder of Saubermacher. The goal of the project dovetails fully with the company's guiding principle of 'zero waste', to recycle as much waste material as possible. 'It's not just the technology that's important, our employees' expertise plays a vital role as well,' explains Gerhard Ziehenberger, Chief Technology Officer at Saubermacher, 'For instance, we use recovered waste components such as waste oil and oil-based concentrates as alternative fuels in the cement industry, which helps to conserve valuable primary raw materials and lower CO₂ emissions,' he continues. The plant is now ready to commence full operation after a twelve-month construction period.

1 CP = Chemical/physical

A major site upgrade. The company has invested eight million Euros in the overhaul to help secure professional disposal for industrial and commercial enterprises in Styria and across central Austria. 'This investment is not only proof of the capability and innovative strength of the Styrian economy but a strong signal for the economic dynamic of the region,' explains Deputy State Governor Michael Schickhofer. 'What's especially important for me is securing jobs for qualified workers in the long term.' For Mario Abl, Mayor of Trofaiach, the Saubermacher site is 'a guarantor for the added value in the region and proof of the positive interaction between the local economy and the municipality. Trofaiach and Saubermacher are both forward-looking, so everything fits together nicely.' Austria produces around 300,000 tonnes of industrial waste water every year. The CP plant has been designed to cope with evolving liquid waste substances and their ever more complex compositions, and can handle volume growth flexibly and at short notice.

Lime, gravity and bacteria for purified water. All organic and inorganic liquid waste can be treated through neutralisation, vaporisation, ultra-filtration and biological secondary treatment. The waste water undergoes chemical treatment — with lime for acid neutralisation — as well as physical treatment, e.g. through mixture distillation or with the use of gravitational force in centrifuges to separate liquids and solids. At the end, micro-bacteria purify the water so that it can be integrated back into the natural water cycle via the sewer system. The CP plant is the largest plant within the Saubermacher Group and at the heart of the site in Trofaiach. The plant was officially opened today in a ceremony attended by customers and associates from the worlds of industry, science and politics as well as residents of the city of Trofaiach. As part of the celebration, Saubermacher also organised an environmental festival for residents with guided tours of the site, exhibitions and a programme for children. The site was blessed by Priest Johannes Freitag.

Additional protection for the environment. Saubermacher ensures that all of its operating plants have ample green space. Colonies of Carniolan honey bees have now been settled at the Trofaiach site, accommodated in specially developed 1100 litre waste containers. With ten colonies on site, the company is helping to preserve bee numbers and produces as many as 300 kg of fine blossom honey every season.

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Saubermacher

für eine lebenswerte Umwelt

Photo 1



R. Mittermayr, Spokesperson for the Board of Saubermacher; H. Roth, Founder of Saubermacher; G. Ketzler, Member of the Board of Saubermacher; G. Ziehenberger, Member of the Board of Saubermacher (left to right); photo credit: Saubermacher/Russold

Photo 2



M. Abl, Mayor of Trofaiach; G. Ziehenberger, Member of the Board of Saubermacher; H. Roth, Founder of Saubermacher; M. Schickhofer, Deputy State Governor; R. Mittermayr, Spokesperson for the Board of Saubermacher (left to right); photo credit: Saubermacher/Russold

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Photo 3



Internal view of the chemical/physical treatment plant; photo credit: Saubermacher/Pixelmaker

Further images can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/saubermacher/>

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About Saubermacher:

Saubermacher Dienstleistungs AG is an international disposal and recycling company based in Feldkirchen bei Graz. The family company was founded in 1979 and is a competent partner for approx. 1600 municipalities and over 40,000 businesses. The company employs some 3050 employees in six countries. With its 'zero waste' vision, the company seeks to process all products at the end of their service lives so that ever increasing quantities of material are sent for recycling, leading to an (almost) unending cycle of reuse.

The site in Trofaiach is one of Saubermacher's most important sites for waste requiring special treatment. It is a key storage and reloading point in central Austria, especially for heavy industry, and a total of 65 employees handle some 55,000 tonnes of liquid and solid waste every year. Around twelve million Euros have been invested in recent years. The site is also home to the accredited clug laboratory, which is also a part of the Saubermacher Group. Further information can be found at www.saubermacher.at.

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