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PRESS INFORMATION

Emission-free and sustainable: Saubermacher opens new recycling plant for refrigeration units

The state-of-the-art recovery plant close to the Czech capital Prague employs innovative technology to achieve a recycling rate of 96 per cent and complete recovery of harmful gases¹ containing CFCs and VOCs. Disused refrigerators, freezers and other refrigeration units are dismantled as part of a two-stage process. The plant processes some 170,000 units every year. Five million Euros were invested in the plant.

Zero Waste. The new plant was recently commissioned by Rumpold s.r.o., a subsidiary of Saubermacher, in Havlickuv Brod. The central role of the dismantling process is to capture and eliminate environmentally harmful CFCs. At the same time, Saubermacher aims to recover as many secondary raw materials as possible. 'With a recovery rate of 96 percent, we are well above the EU standard of 85 per cent and fast approaching the 100 per cent mark,' explains Gerhard Ziehenberger, Chief Technology Officer on the Board of Saubermacher AG. 'It is remarkable that the proportion of materials recycled is 88 percent,' adds Hans Roth, founder of Saubermacher. The industry uses the recovered materials, including plastics, iron, aluminium and copper, as raw materials.

Global flagship plant. The plant processes fifty per cent of refrigeration units on the Czech market and has created twenty new jobs. The first stage in the production processes dries the refrigeration units, sucks the CFC/oil mixture out of the cooling circuit and separates the two components of the mixture in a special heat and pressure treatment process. Compressors, wood and glass parts as well as harmful components are then disassembled. In the second stage, the devices are crushed, the various materials separated

¹ Chlorofluorocarbon compounds and volatile organic carbon compounds

from one another and the CFC propellant is removed from the insulating foam. The high material recycling rate is confirmed by WEEELABEX², a quality certificate.

Photo 1



Jan Tecl, Mayor of Havlickuv Brod; Hans Roth, Founder of Saubermacher; Cenek Juzl, Deputy Mayor of Havlickuv Brod; Christian Miller, Austrian Ambassador to the Czech Republic; Hannes Roth, Businessman (left to right); photo credit: Saubermacher

Photo 2



Ralf Mittermayr, Spokesperson of the Board of Saubermacher; Hans Roth, Founder of Saubermacher; Christian Miller, Austrian Ambassador to the Czech Republic; Hannes Roth, Businessman; Gerhard Ziehenberger, Chief Technology Officer on the Board of Saubermacher AG (left to right); photo credit: Saubermacher

² see <http://www.weeelabex.org/>

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Saubermacher

für eine lebenswerte Umwelt

About Saubermacher

Saubermacher Dienstleistungs AG is an international disposal and recycling company based in Feldkirchen bei Graz. The environmental pioneer was founded in the east Styrian city of Gnas in 1979. Today, the family company is a competent partner for around 1600 municipalities and more than 40,000 companies and employs around 3,100 employees in Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary and the United Arab Emirates. With its 'zero waste' vision, the company seeks to leave no waste behind and 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.

Queries

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