

## Company History – Updated 08/2020

The current location of the main factory, the “Haus in der Au”, can be traced back to the year 1290. This estate has remained in the hands of the Welser family, passed down from one generation to the next since 1664. The long tradition of the family business originally constituted metal processing in a forge and later in a sheet metal factory.

The development to an international industrial company began in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- 1958 Five employees working under Josef Welser
- 1960 The production of rolled profiles begins. Profile production emerged from the idea to create protective edges for concrete form liners. Instead of punching, bending and piercing these form liners on eccentric presses in seven operating steps, the idea was born to warp edge protection lining on rolling machines.
- 1961 The company becomes a general commercial partnership (OHG). Komm.-Rat (Commercial Counsellor) Waltraud Welser and Komm.-Rat (Commercial Counsellor) Josef Welser are the managing directors.
- 1962 The first production hall is built in Ybbsitz, Austria.
- 1964 300<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Welser family business. The consumption of semi-finished materials is slightly under 2,000 tons/year. From this material, approximately 2 million linear meters of profiles are produced, with nearly 2/3 exported internationally.
- 1966 The first expansions to the production hall are made. A separate area is established for the construction of tools and equipment. From here on, all of the tools and equipment required for production are designed and manufactured in-house.
- 1969 Semi-finished material consumption has already reached 6,000 tons/year. These materials are already being made into approximately 5.5 million linear meters of profiles.
- 1970 A new office building is built with construction rooms. At this point in time, the company is already creating 1,200 different profile cross-sections. The company has entered the IT age. Financial accounting, payroll and material management are the first areas utilizing electronic support.
- 1971 A modern company logo takes the place of the centuries-old emblem (a key). The new logo symbolizes continuous roll forming in which rollers are used to shape metal strip into profiles.
- 1972 Another company location is founded in the town of Gresten, where a new production hall is built. This enables the old iron market of Gresten to re-enter the iron industry.

- 1974 This year sees the quantity of processed materials grow to approximately 14,000 tons. After being processed, this is equal to more than 11 million linear meters of profiles.
- 1975 Foundation of the first sales office in Switzerland.  
The founding of further sales offices follows, signalling the internationalization of the company:  
1976 in the Federal Republic of Germany  
1978 in Sweden  
1986 in The Netherlands  
1987 in France  
1988 in Italy  
1990 in Spain  
1993 in England  
1994 in Hungary  
2003 in Poland  
2005 in the Czech Republic
- 1980 Expansion in Austria also gathers pace. Two additional production halls are erected in Gresten. In addition to open profiles with complex cross-sections, welded profile tubes are also added to the production program for the first time.
- 1985 An office is established in the centre of Vienna for customers in the greater Vienna region. With the construction of three additional production halls, 41,000 tons/year of preliminary material are now being processed, from which more than 24 million linear meters of profiles are produced.
- 1986 The plant at Gresten receives a railroad connection. From here on, the necessary preliminary material is delivered almost exclusively by rail. As a result, 2,500 fewer freight trucks are clogging up the roads.
- 1992 An additional four production halls are built in Gresten. The region of operation (Ybbsitz and Gresten) now covers a combined surface area of approximately 95,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with a built-up surface area for both locations totalling approximately 39,000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1995 Until now nearly 9,500 different profile cross-sections have been produced on a total of 22 high-performance profile rolling trains, finding usage in nearly every major sector of industry. The individual customer's desire is always the foundation of the profile cross-section corresponding with the solution to the customer's problem. At present, the company employs 670 workers, who process 140,000 tons of steel annually.
- 1997 The 25-year company celebration in the Gresten plant is marked by the largest company expansion to date. With an investment volume of over EUR 36 million, four new production halls are created. As a result, substantial investments in new technologies and additional production capacities are made in order to properly meet massive customer demands for the reduction of supply capability. The region of operation for both plants now has a total area of 153,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with a built-up area of approximately 57,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

1998 After speedy construction in autumn, the capacity of the Erlauftalbahnhof is increased (from narrow gauge to standard gauge) and put into operation. This investment brings internal re-organization of the entire logistics and reemphasizes the company's environmental orientation. Over 700 employees are now working in both plants and 10,800 different profile cross-sections have been produced on a total of 24 high-performance profile roll-forming lines.

1999 Two companies in Germany are acquired, PGH in Bönen and RP Technik in Wickede with its subsidiary RP PURAL GmbH Riedstadt.

At the end of 1999, the general commercial partnership (OHG) becomes a public limited company (AG) → 100 % private ownership (Josef and Waltraud Welsler). Chairman of the supervisory board: Komm.-Rat Waltraud Welsler, additional members of the supervisory board: Komm.-Rat Josef Welsler, DDr. Baumann, Dr. Ludwig, Mr. Forsthuber (staff committee), Mr. Hintersteiner (labour committee).

Komm.-Rat Ing. Wolfgang Welsler and Ing. Helmut Welsler were appointed as directors.

2000 Switzerland: 25 years of Welsler AG in Switzerland.

Germany: The newly established operations area of 47,000 m<sup>2</sup> now offers Welsler Profile GmbH in Germany the same production possibilities as Welsler Profile AG in Austria. The investment of approximately EUR 72 million enabled close proximity to the production and clear logistical advantages for our customers in Northern and Western Europe.

This meant an expansion in production capacity at a location separate from the main plants. This strategic decision is extremely significant for further development of the company (e.g. to qualify as supplier for the automotive supplies industry). The decision actively addressed a considerable environmental and cost aspect. The result was a significant reduction to the steadily growing "steel tourism", whereby sustainable environmental protection is afforded and substantial costs are saved.

Austria: After eleven months of construction (started: 23 Oct. 2000), new production areas were completed in Gresten with the halls 16-22. This required an area of 24,494 m<sup>2</sup>. An investment volume of approximately EUR 30 million was put into this production expansion.

2002 At the start of the year, a new office building with 744 m<sup>2</sup> was completed in Gresten.

2003 The 10<sup>th</sup> sales office in Poland was founded on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

November: Successful renewal of certification according to the process-oriented management system standard ISO 9001:2000 by the ÖQS.

By the end of 2003, the amount of materials used equals a total of approximately 300,000 tons of steel. Statistically, three new cross-sections are produced each day.

The total number of employees has climbed to approximately 1,500. Of these employees, approximately 910 are in Austria, 530 in Germany and 60 at the logistics location in Switzerland and in the nine sales offices all over Europe.

2004 The beginning of a continuous process for extensive company development towards "Welser 2014" (350 years of Welser continuously over 11 generations as a family business at the Ybbsitz location).

2005 On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the founder and co-owner of Welser OHG and later Welser Profile AG, Komm.-Rat Josef Welser, passed away at the age of 82.

Founding of the sales office in Prague for the sales region Czech Republic.

Welser Beteiligungs GmbH Germany and RP Technik GmbH taken under the scope of the multi-site certification.

RP Pural GmbH is sold (subsidiary of RP Technik).

Construction of training and instructional rooms in the vacated office spaces of RP Technik (Edisonstraße 4).

Construction of canopies for halls 5-7 (1,320 m<sup>2</sup>) at the works in Gresten.

2006 More than 1,500 employees are now working for the Welser Profile group of companies. The number of profile cross sections produced has already reached 16,000.

The presence of the sales force is strengthened in eastern European countries and Russia. Welser takes part in the construction exhibition, Mosbuild in Moscow for the very first time.

From 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> December 2006, Welser was audited at the sites in Austria and Germany according to the guidelines of the OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management System) and successfully certified by the AUVA.

The logistics centre in Horn (Switzerland) is expanded with halls 3 and 4.

Construction of hall 5a covering a development surface area of 1490 m<sup>2</sup> and the canopies for halls 1-2 (480 m<sup>2</sup>).

New criteria introduced for marketing and innovation management. Central themes are the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> through the use of lightweight profiles and promoting environmentally friendly technologies and products. New technologies and procedures encourage not only economical and ecological concepts, but also a cost and weight saving, whilst at the same time offering greater functionality.

2007 Plans go ahead for expansion in Bönen. The project to construct 9 additional production halls and an office building with full personnel amenities will be carried out in two construction phases covering a total surface area of 87,570 m<sup>2</sup>.

Phase one of the construction project (2007/2008) involves the expansion of hall 16, the coil storage hall and the construction of production halls 17-22 and the office building with full personnel amenities. The complete development surface area of phase one of the project amounts to 28,108.54 m<sup>2</sup>.

In an effort to protect the environment, a roof canopy is constructed at hall 5 measuring 580 m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, canopies come in to use at halls 1-2 (1,360 m<sup>2</sup>) and halls 12-15 (2,900 m<sup>2</sup>).

- 2008 The annual quantity of material processed amounts to 450,000 tons. There are now more than 55 high performance production lines in use with up to 55 roll-forming stages. The number of employees of the Welser Profile group of companies now amounts to 1,700.

In order to improve the ecological balance, an environmental management system is integrated in to the existing management system. In November the company was audited in Germany and Austria by the "Quality Austria" according to the guidelines of ISO 14001:2004.

Development of an additional hall at RP Technik covering a base area of approx. 2,200 m<sup>2</sup>. Photovoltaic roof system in operation by the end of December, producing valuable electricity, which is supplied to the on-site network.

In Gresten, Welser is expanded by a further 1,790 m<sup>2</sup> with the construction of hall 5b.

- 2009 Production halls 3 and 4 at the manufacturing site in Gresten were expanded (3,140 m<sup>2</sup>).

The new RP Technik hall was up and running by April.

The Welser Profile Group experienced a drop in sales as a result of the global economic crisis. The construction industry was the worst affected and this had a knock on effect on the interior design and construction design industries. The company used the crisis as an opportunity to concentrate on measures for improvement and further training activities.

- 2010 The Welser Profile Group was restructured on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010, in order to ensure the sustainability of the family organisation.

Welser Profile AG in Ybbsitz (Austria) is now registered as Welser Profile Austria GmbH.

Welser Profile GmbH in Bönen (Germany) is now registered as Welser Profile Deutschland GmbH. Managing Directors of Welser Profile Austria GmbH: KR Waltraud Welser, KR Ing. Wolfgang Welser, KR Ing. Helmut Welser, KR Bernd Wehling.

Managing Directors of Welser Profile Deutschland GmbH: KR Ing. Wolfgang Welser, Mag. Thomas Welser, KR Bernd Wehling.

- 2011 On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, the group of companies is brought into the „Josef and Waltraud Welser Private Foundation“.

- 2012 A photovoltaic system is installed on the new office building located at the site in Ybbsitz. In Gresten, a staff area is added to halls 7A and 7B, a cooling system is introduced for halls 1–4 as well as a central heating system for halls 1–16.

Steady growth leads to further expansion at the production site in Bönen. The development covering an additional 9,660 m<sup>2</sup> includes the extension of halls 17 and 18 and construction of hall 19.

After 40 years of successfully contributing to the running of the family organisation, KR Ing. Wolfgang Welser steps down from his role as Managing Partner. He remains involved in the company as a partner and his sons Andreas and Thomas take on additional management duties.

A new sales office was founded in Istanbul, Turkey.

2013 On the 1<sup>st</sup> April, RP Technik merged with the esco-Systembereich FERRO-WIC.

From September, all customer contracts are processed via the newly founded central sales company Welser Profile GmbH. Thomas Welser, Andreas Welser and Oliver Sonst were named as the Company Directors.

Through a high quality international network and increased sales focus, Welser has been involved in a range of projects across several Arab countries.

A new sales office was founded in Moscow, Russia.

Achieving the production of more than 20,000 unique profile cross sections was clear evidence of the successful performance of the company.

2014 The production facility in Gresten was expanded – Halls 5 to 7 were increased by 3,807m<sup>2</sup>.

The 350<sup>th</sup> Year of Welser was a good reason for a big celebration held together with employees, customers and business partners.

2015 An important milestone in the further development of our quality processes is the implementation and certification of our processes to ISO/TS 16949.

Welser AG in Switzerland celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary together with many long standing customers.

2016 The construction of a logistics building outside the company's premises paves the way for additional storage areas in Gresten, thus reducing traffic load notably. Just-in-time delivery may now be realized in a comfortable way.

2017 The foundation of our sales office in Chicago in January 2017 is the first important step towards an expansion of the Welser Profile Group into America.

2018 On 27 February, 2018, Waltraud Welser, founder and co-owner of the Welser OHG and the later Welser Profile Group dies.

Welser Profile initiates the second step towards America by acquiring the US-producer of special profiles, Superior Roll Forming.

It aims at the best possible supply reliability at the American continent and an increased quality of service.

2019 Welser Profile opens a modern training facility at its Gresten site, giving even more young people the opportunity to take on an apprenticeship in the metal industry.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September, we were presented with the 'Award for Excellent Employee Orientation' by EUCUSA Consulting, for our continuous improvement of employee satisfaction.

In addition to this, a strategy and culture programme is introduced across all locations. We also introduced various initiatives to strengthen networking within the region.

2020 A new production hall, complete with an office and high-bay storage area, is constructed in Gresten.

Covering an area of 7.000 m<sup>2</sup>, the photovoltaic structure on the roof of Welsler AG in Horn, is the biggest in Eastern Switzerland!