

07/2024

THINK SUSTAINABLE



WINTERSTEIGER
Thinking about tomorrow.

Sustainable means ensuring the future

From an economic, ecological and social viewpoint

Sustainability is composed of three components and it is only a bundle of all three – social, ecological and economic measures – that results in sustainable actions.

As a manufacturing company, WINTERSTEIGER has very little scope in global competition and must pay attention to economic sustainability in all of its decisions. The decision in favor of the Ried im Innkreis and Mettmach locations in Upper Austria, in Altsch in Vorarlberg as well as in Lahr and Frickenhausen in Baden-Württemberg, Arnstadt in Thüringen and Rimsting in Bavaria where all of our machines are produced, generates value in regions that are sustainable due to the high Austrian and German environmental standards.

An ecological balance is extremely important to WINTERSTEIGER in the business areas in Ried im Innkreis, Sports, Seedmech and Woodtech. Sports with products for winter Sports, Seedmech with technical equipment for agricultural field trials, and Woodtech with machines and tools for woodworking and wood processing rely on development in balance with the environment for sustainable success. Improving energy efficiency is thus an important factor both in product development and in terms of resource- and environmentally-friendly production processes.

The social component is evident in many benefits to staff, but also for stakeholders such as neighbors and young persons (quality apprenticeships, occupational orientation program, participation at the „Long night of apprenticeship“, the „Long night of research“ and Girls' Day).

WINTERSTEIGER celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2023. Only a company that operates in a sustainable way and carefully considers how it deploys its resources – capital, staff and raw materials – can hope to survive in the long term. The present report provides an initial sustainability inventory.

WINTERSTEIGER in the sphere of legislation and directives

For WINTERSTEIGER as a global group, sustainability must be seen in an international context. In deciding to produce all of our machines at our sites in Austria or in Germany, WINTERSTEIGER consciously accepts the strict European environmental requirements and standards. They include a large proportion of green power, annual measurements with regard to the Austrian energy efficiency obligation, strict legislation in waste disposal (e.g., ARA licensing) and company audits.



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Assuming responsibility for a sustainable community

WINTERSTEIGER is a major employer in the Ried im Innkreis region.

Mobility – together, active, sustainable

In Operations and in the Administration area many employees share cars, while others come to work on their bikes. The central company location and the railway station adjacent to the company premises encourage the use of public transport. For business trips in German-speaking countries, the preferred mode of transport is rail.

Workplace health promotion is a top priority at WINTERSTEIGER and the employees are supported in many areas by our head office in Ried im Innkreis:

- WINTERSTEIGER social fund for employees and their family (financial support after an accident or in case of illness)
- Cooperation with Mercur assurance (special conditions for private provision for one's old age)
- Fresh fruit every day
- Subsidy for lunch in the company cafeteria. Campaign "Healthy and regional" with a vegetarian dish made from regional ingredients for 1 euro
- Company Sports (bowling, darts, indoor rifle shooting, skill); skiing day
- Local Sports events (Ried city run)
- Cooperation with a fitness studio (subsidy and reduced membership fee)
- Company doctor (consultation, treatment, workplace evaluations, discount for vaccinations)
- Support in personal crisis situations: Anonymous counseling at external contact points is provided by the Human Resources department in cooperation with the regional health insurance in the shortest possible time.
- All offices in Ried im Innkreis and in the subsidiaries are equipped with air disinfection devices.

Besides our staff, the company also considers the expectations of other groups, such as customers, neighbors, and young people. WINTERSTEIGER always takes a long-term approach in all relations and sees itself successfully confirmed in doing so when, for example, apprentices (after their apprenticeships in the company), or customers remain loyal to WINTERSTEIGER for decades.



In order to further increase human capital, great importance is attached to the training and development of employees: from individual technical training courses to specific internal training programmes, which are published in the twice-yearly WINTERSTEIGER Academy course book.

The focus is on workshops to improve leadership and social skills, communication skills and team building. Health promotion, digital transformation and NewWork in connection with generation management round off the WINTERSTEIGER training programme.



The **percentage of female staff** at WINTERSTEIGER is approximately 15 %; this is a relatively high figure for a mechanical engineering company. Likewise, the proportion of women in management positions is also increasing. The Legal and HR departments are headed by women. WINTERSTEIGER participates in Girls' Day every year and seeks to increase above all the percentage of females taking up apprenticeships. Currently, some 10 to 15 % of our apprentices throughout the group are female.



Apprenticeship training is viewed as a pillar of enterprise success and thus implemented at as high a level as possible from both business and social point of view. The pleasing result of this is that, after completing their vocational training, nearly 100 % of these young professionals stay with WINTERSTEIGER. In 2022 WINTERSTEIGER was again certified with the „ineo“ which is valid for three years. This certificate of the Upper Austrian chamber of economics stands for exemplary engagement in apprenticeship training.



WINTERSTEIGER creates more awareness of **family friendliness**. This was confirmed again in 2023 with the "workandfamily" certificate. There are many measures for reconciling work and family life which WINTERSTEIGER already lives by in terms of social responsibility. Further family-friendly measures are planned and their implementation will be reported on annually. The families of our employees are invited to events such as family skiing day and Christmas party every year. Once a year, the whole family's skiing equipment is serviced.

The company employs **people with disabilities** and integrates them in the workplace according to their capabilities. Of course, construction measures are also being implemented for this purpose.

A solid economic basis for a company with a future

Building investments for healthy growth.

WINTERSTEIGER's basis is sustainable growth in the enterprise. Equity is therefore strengthened by a high retention rate. The earnings are used for innovations, development measures, upgrading machines, and modernizing the premises. In 2023, the R&D ratio was 5.4 % of sales (approximately 13.4 million euros).

To ensure WINTERSTEIGER's growth, the company continuously invests in its buildings. In 2023, the "Technik & Service Woodtech" building in Ried will be expanded by 250 m² (2,700 sq ft) 2021/22, two new buildings were completed at the Ried im Innkreis site: "Technik & Service Seedmech" with 1,500 m² (16,000 sq ft) in combination with the "Smart Factory Lab" apprenticeship workshop building as well as a central waste collection center. In 2019/2020,

WINTERSTEIGER constructed a new „Technology & Service Sports“ building at the Ried im Innkreis site with a total area of 1,100 m² (12,000 sq ft). Of this, 820 m² (8,800 sq ft) is accounted for by halls for the development of new machines and the general overhaul of used machines that are returned to the market.

In recent years, new buildings have been constructed for the subsidiaries in the USA and France. In 2018, the company buildings in Salt Lake City (USA) and in Arnstadt (Germany) were expanded. KOHLER's new company building in Lahr (2014) with around 10,000 m² (108,000 sq ft) of floor space is the largest single investment in the company's history to date.



New building 2019/2020: Technik & Service Sports



Extension 2023: Technology & Service Woodtech



New building 2022: Apprenticeship workshop Smart factory Lab and Technik & Service Seedmech

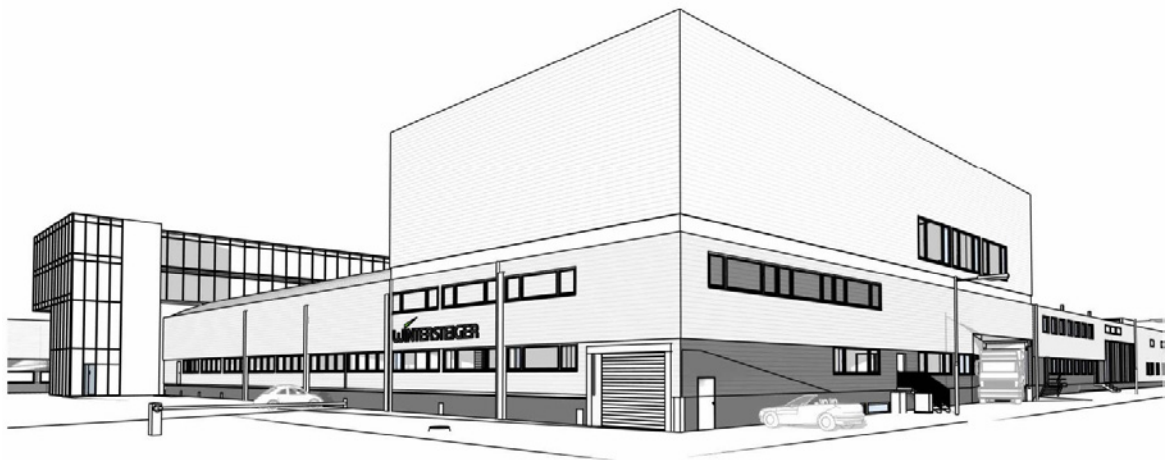
Sustainable site development

In order to develop the company headquarters in Ried as sustainably and compactly as possible, WINTERSTEIGER is drawing up a site and building plan for the coming decades. We are looking for free space on the company premises, collecting ideas and considering which buildings could and should be converted. The aim is to build upwards instead of outwards. The first projects in this direction are already being planned or implemented.

Small parts warehouse moves to Ried

In 2025, the small parts warehouse will be moved from the logistics center in St. Martin to Ried. For this purpose, an area of 800 m² (8,600 sq ft) will be built above one of the production halls, with the warehouse reaching a height of 16 meters (53 ft). The hall will house the latest generation of automated small parts warehouse, which will save space compared to the previous warehouse thanks to its high degree of space utilization. The conversion in Ried will save 1,500 m² (16.000 sq ft) of space in St. Martin. Part of this space can be used in the future for separate spare parts storage for each of the WINTERSTEIGER GmbHS.

The new building will enable around 80 % of production items to be moved from St. Martin to Ried, and the reduction in transport volumes will lead to an improvement in the shuttle concept: Currently, a 40-ton articulated truck is needed to deliver the goods from St. Martin to Ried in 5 daily trips. In the future it will be possible to switch to a medium weight truck (<18 tons). This will have a positive impact on urban traffic and the environment. In addition, the shorter loading and unloading times will make it possible to better adhere to commute times.



New waste center

A central waste center will be built in 2023, allowing for more efficient waste separation and minimizing forklift trips and routes.

In all construction activities, priority is given to regional companies with short travel distances.



Facility management for an optimum working environment

WINTERSTEIGER invests continuously in its company buildings. Energy efficiency is a key factor when it comes to new buildings or renovations.

Award for WINTERSTEIGER

2018, WINTERSTEIGER was among 29 Austrian companies to receive an award from the Federal Ministry as part of the „klimaaktiv Program für energieeffiziente Betriebe“ (klimaaktiv program for energy-efficient businesses). WINTERSTEIGER was honored for implementing the following energy efficiency measures:

- Switching from metal halide lamps to an energy efficient LED lighting system in the production area and the installation of a daylight control system (energy saving approx. 30 %)
- Changing the heating system: removal of 2 gas boilers and connection to geothermal district heating (natural gas saving: approx. 1,800 MWh/year)

Heat generated by renewables

In 2017, the WINTERSTEIGER buildings have been connected to Energie Ried's geothermal district heating system. An area of 20,165 m² (217,000 sq ft) is supplied with environmentally-friendly heat generated from underground hot water. As a result, two gas boilers with outputs of 1,200 MW and 750 MW have been removed.



Heat recirculation supplies new building

The 2022 constructed “Service & Technik Seedmech” building is heated with the surplus heat recirculation from the surrounding production buildings. 110 kW of heating power required for the 1,500 m² area can be applied via concrete core activation (heating of the concrete floor slab) and a heat return of 60°C. The lower temperature of the heat recirculation, which is then returned to the geothermal network, reduces the overall heating costs of WINTERSTEIGER, as the district heating tariff becomes more favorable: the lower the return temperature, the more efficient the geothermal network and the lower the costs for the consumer. This innovative solution therefore supplies an additional building with environmentally friendly heating energy, but reduces overall energy costs.

The geothermal system in which Energie Ried GmbH is participating is Austria’s largest geothermal project. Braunau and Simbach have had a district heating system since 2000, and were joined by the City of Ried im Innkreis and other surrounding municipalities in 2012.



New building 2022: Technology & Service Seedmech

Energy efficient hall ventilation

For mechanical production and surface coating a new hall ventilation system was installed in 2018. The aim of investment was to create a better production environment for people and machine. The ventilation works according to the Functional principle of heat dissipation: the heat load is re- corded specifically under the hall ceiling and is transmitted via the roof derived. Cooler fresh air is draught-free thanks to textile hoses. or source air outlets (stepless, temperature- controlled control) in the past.

The new ventilation system not only cools the hall, but also fresh air is also permanently supplied, so that the typical odour of coolant emulsion in mechanical production has completely disappeared. This causes a new, noticeable better air standard in this area.



Expanding electric mobility



The expansion of photovoltaics goes hand in hand with the provision of electric cars for employees. In 2021, the first 2 company electric cars with a battery capacity of 58 kWh and a range of approx. 300 km were purchased. They are used for trips within the city of Ried, to the logistics center in St. Martin or for customer visits.

Since December 2022, employees have been able to purchase a subsidized electric car from WINTERSTEIGER. Including the electric company cars, the company already has more than 130 e-cars - this means that every sixth WINTERSTEIGER employee drives an electric car.

The company car offer applies to all employees at the 7 locations in Austria: in addition to Ried, there are the locations in Mettmach, St. Martin, Vienna, Altag and Bartholomäberg in Vorarlberg as well as Liezen in Styria. The number of charging stations on the company premises is being continuously expanded in parallel with the vehicle fleet: there are already 20 e-parking spaces with 22 kW, and a 150 kW fast charging station was recently put into operation.



Expanding photovoltaics

In March 2021, the first PV system with a surface of 2830 m², distributed on 7 roofs of the company and an output of 300 kWp, will be put into operation. The new „Technik & Service Seedmech“ building, which was completed in 2022, is also equipped with PV modules. In total, an output of 500 kWp will be achieved: The entire base load of the company can be covered with green electricity.

Electricity from the company's own PV system

The company's base load can be met
with green power.

Operations

Operational workflows with a view to sustainable development

Energy-efficient production

In the production of machines, energy and raw material consumption have been reduced in many steps. This means continuously improving production processes and investing in more efficient equipment.

- Investment in a machine used for deburring components from mechanical production. An annual water consumption of approx. 200,000 liters was necessary for the operation of the plant. The additional investment in water treatment (by means of a centrifuge) will reduce the annual water consumption to approx. 1500 liters (2020).

Energy saving projects 2023

Conversion of machines in mechanical production

The large machining centers (lathes and mills) are not shut down at night or on weekends because experience has shown that shutting down the main machines immediately leads to problems: The printed circuit boards in the control systems, which cool down during shutdown, are damaged. To save power, a new control system was designed and built that only shuts down auxiliary systems such as the hydraulic pump, air valve, chip conveyor, or magnetic separator.

Results:

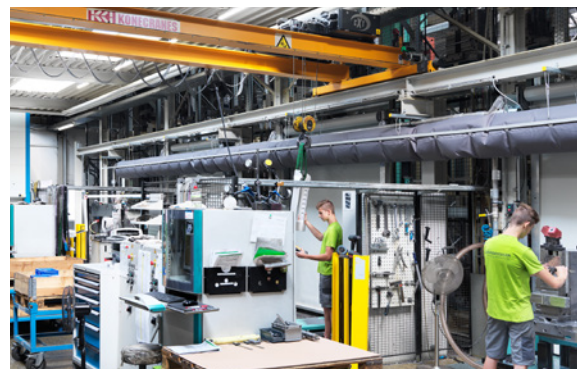
- Annual savings (e.g. Makino A81): 5,000 euros
- Standby reduction: from 5 kW to 1 kW
- Annual savings on compressors: 13,500 euros or 3,000 hours

Conversion of suction system

The suction system in the non-cutting production was oversized for today's requirements. A new control system was therefore built that optimally regulates the speed of the extraction system and adapts it to the required extraction capacity.

Results:

- Annual savings: 5,600 euros (with material costs of 3,500 euros)
- Power reduced from 30 kW to 20 kW
- Additional benefit: significant noise reduction at the workplace





- Decentralized heating boilers in surface technology (paint shop and part washing plant). This measure leverages major potential savings because the building heating can be switched off in the summer. Prior to implementation the entire system needed to be heated up. The new heating boiler is located 5 m from the surface technology department; this means that only a low temperature is required on the supply side (60°C) and that heat losses caused by a heating pipe with a length of more than 500 m are now avoided.
- Use of water-based emulsions in mechanical production and grinding applications
- Investment in a new lathe which is more energy efficient and user-friendly (2016)
- Investment in an electrostatic plant for part priming with 40 % savings (2015)
- Machine coolants are tested once a month by a laboratory and recycled twice prior to disposal depending on the results. This considerably extends the service life of the coolant.
- Production waste is recycled to the extent possible. Separation of stainless steel and steel
- The two old laser cutting systems together with their sheet metal storage have been taken out of service and a new complete system with a high degree of automation has been purchased. The new laser cutting system is 30 % faster than the old one and the sheet metal storage capacity has been increased fourfold (2014).
- The filters in the CNC machines are cleaned using ultrasound and reused.
- The manufacturers of the drive systems in our processing machines offer a package that ensures that the motors are always state-of-the-art. Motors switch off when the sliding door on the machine is opened: this avoids standby time.
- 4 welding robots were replaced by 1 state-of-the-art, efficient robot (2012).
- In 2011, the group invested in a powder recovery system. 95 % of the powder which does not bond, and was formerly disposed of, is now recovered. Consumption has thus been reduced by around 50 %.
- Our powder coating furnaces are time-controlled so as to shut down during breaks or shift changes.
- Use of water-soluble paints in wet painting. This substantially reduced the consumption of solvents.
- The company invested in a leak detection device to identify leaks in the compressed air system; the device checks where air is escaping during operation.
- Timers in the extractor and in swarf conveyor systems: the systems switch off outside of working hours.
- Ventilation system at the Seedmech test center. An enormous amount of exhaust heat is created during machine testing (120 kW output if, e.g., 2 harvesters are running). The new ventilation system has an air intake on the north side of the building (rather than via the roof). The factory shop is then cooled by exchanging the air 16x (16,000 m³/hour) thus avoiding the need for additional air conditioning units.
- Efficient stock in plant thanks to JIT (Just in Time) production system
- Packaging: Recycling capable wooden pallets by a regional crate maker and cardboard boxes are used throughout.

70 % of employees in production are former WINTERSTEIGER apprentices.

3.2

Transport solutions with high quality requirements

The topic of sustainability is making inroads into the logistics branch under the motto of „Green Logistics“. Carriers such as Austrian Post or Deutsche Post DHL are looking into this in great depth. With a view to sustainable cooperation, WINTERSTEIGER imposes strict quality requirements for freight forwarding and logistics service providers. The selection criteria include working conditions, motivation and qualification of staff and the quality of the transport equipment. Commercial vehicles must be state-of-the-art in terms of environmental technology (e.g., state-of-the-art exhaust gas filters). Logistics providers to fulfil these requirements are given priority.

3.3

„Green Procurement“

Private enterprises are not fundamentally bound to observe the regulations of tender award legislation; however, WINTERSTEIGER finds the topic of sustainable procurement important despite this fact. The objective is long-term, sustainable supplier relations that uphold and promote the quality of the product, and thus have a positive influence on the economic figures and eco-footprint.

3.4

Supply chain management for efficient processes

WINTERSTEIGER also designs supply chain processes that are as efficient as possible in order to make a significant contribution to economic and ecological sustainability. The SCM functions include the design, planning and control of the flow of goods and information along the inter-company value-added chain to ensure an overall optimum in the supply chain. The effectiveness and efficiency of the processes are in the foreground, whereby the search for existing potential is mainly carried out at the interfaces between departments and divisions. The aim is a lean, trouble-free and reliable supply of our divisions and end customers.





Efficient use of resources in all divisions

WINTERSTEIGER „thinks about tomorrow today“ and thus has great expectations in terms of both product and machine quality in each division and our comprehensive service portfolio. Machines and products are designed and built to achieve the maximum possible service life. We currently cannot make a statement about our thin-cutting saws' service lives – the first machines, which we delivered in the early 1970s are still in use. This principle increases the efficiency of the use of our resources.

Division Sports Rent & Service, Bike Services, Dry & Protect

The target customer group in our Division Sports is mainly located in winter Sports locations in the mountains, which are highly sensitive areas in terms of the environment. In recent years, we have implemented the following development steps to ensure more responsible handling of natural resources:

Ski service machines

- The power consumption for machine operation is continually dropping. Efficiency improvements, also in terms of speed and coolant consumption, are an important aspect in product development. In terms of power consumption, WINTERSTEIGER currently offers the most frugal machines on the market, and is 2–3 kW below the consumption figures of our competitors for ski service machines. The reasons for this are more efficient motor design, a more effective heating system in finishing modules and modern temperature controls.
- Most automated ski service machines today are equipped with remote maintenance. In combination with various evaluation options, this reduces the number of service technicians required on site and thus their travel.



- The Jupiter generation of vending machines all come with remote maintenance. This means that customer service can check the status of the machine at any time and correct faults online.
- A customer dashboard is currently being developed. This will allow preventive maintenance to be carried out.
- The Jupiter is also fully enclosed, which significantly reduces emissions in the workshop.

- A synthetic cooling lubricant, not made on the basis of petrochemicals, is added to the cooling water in the ski service machines. This cooling lubricant solution serves to cool the skis and tools during grinding, to increase the biostability of the water and improve the corrosion resistance of metal edges on skis and snowboards as well as of the components in the ski service machine. The water from the grinding coolant is clarified with single- and multiple-stage filters, the constellation and number being specifically optimized for each ski service machine. Customers can purchase additional filter stages and equipment. While not in use, the grinding water in the tank can be ventilated with a micro-aerator for additional biostabilization, thus significantly extending its service life.
- WINTERSTEIGER works with the manufacturers to continuously adapt the cooling lubricant mixtures in order to optimize their effectiveness and safety for staff. WINTERSTEIGER uses synthetic cooling lubricants that are not mineral oil-based (unlike other manufacturers).
- Eco Wax Block: The wax block for ski tuning machines is biodegradable: After only 28 days, more than 60% of the substances are degraded.
- WINTERSTEIGER runs a used machine center. The machines are overhauled and then returned to the market with a view to conserving resources and avoiding waste. Machines that are no longer usable are dismantled and the raw materials are fed into the recycling cycle.

Storage, drying and rental systems

- Improving energy efficiency was also an important design criterion for the Easystore Flex Line for storing and drying skis, snowboards, helmets and ski boots. The new systems are installed in a modular design. The components that consume power can be better adapted to the seasonal load because the dryer modules can be switched on individually to meet requirements. The dryers use the indoor air, that is, the energy already in the indoor air is leveraged. The heater can be switched on or off depending on the drying requirements. With the new control system, the heating cycle is optimally timed and can thus save up to 60 % electricity.
- WINTERSTEIGER Dry & Protect supplies solutions for drying, disinfecting and odor reduction all types of work wear and protective clothing. Particularly energy-efficient drying lockers have been developed for drying worker's clothing: The Econ model works with condensation and is therefore extremely economical in terms of electricity consumption. This unique condensation method reduces energy usage and power consumption by up to 60 %.

Activities in USA

- The biologically degradable ski wax in our US product range is comprised of organic components (Meadowfoam seed oil).
- The accessories catalog is printed on recycled paper.
- Annual supplier audit by REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.): WINTERSTEIGER is audited annually by REI in terms of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and listed as a preferred supplier.



Thinking about tomorrow.

Machine accessories and workshop equipment

- WINTERSTEIGER does without plastic packaging wherever possible, and uses cardboard boxes instead. By requiring cardboard boxes, WINTERSTEIGER also influences our suppliers.
- Keeping transport routes as short as possible: more than 80 % of our retail articles come from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France.
- Like in all of our divisions, the Division Sports relies on customer service employees from each local region to keep travel to a minimum.



Bike Services

With the new „Bike Services“ product range launched in 2019 for Sports retailers, tourism, companies (bicycle commuters) and municipalities, WINTERSTEIGER is taking into account the strong trend towards active mobility.

Water-saving system for bike cleaning

With a consumption of only 2 liters per bike cleaning, the Veloclean system for bike cleaning is very water-saving and was awarded an investment premium in Austria at the beginning of 2021 as an ecological “Investment for the primary purpose of saving water”.



Division Woodtech

Thin-cutting of wood, timber repair technology, band saw blades, mobile saws and automation solutions

For the Division Woodtech, the conservation of resources is an essential factor that distinguishes our machines for our customers. WINTERSTEIGER produces thin-cutting machines and matching thin-cutting saw blades as well as systems for wood surface repairs with TRC technology.

In wood thin-cutting, the smallest kerfs – that is, minimal raw material loss – ensures maximum returns. Where lamellas are processed to create multiple ply products, the wood yield is additionally boosted by the high quality product. Trees are a limited resource. TRC technology transforms naturally flawed wooden surfaces into high quality products with a rustic design, thus increasing the utilization of the wood.

- The thin-cutting sawing machines are very efficient in terms of power consumption and use of water or lubricants due to the thin saw blades and modern control electronics. The lubricant and release agent used for spraying the saw blades during the cutting process is a biological lubricant that has no negative impact on the environment.
- The machines are characterized by a long service life. Machines that were produced in the early 70s are partly still in use today. They can be modernized (upgraded), and we ensure the availability of spare parts. For new developed machines existing components are used as far as possible. This approach ensures a reliable supply with spare parts for decades.



- The TRC business area – „Timber Repair & Cosmetics“ additionally boosts the sustainability of the used raw material. TRC systems repair damage parts of the wood such as cracks or knots with an ecologically unobjectionable filler.
- The machines are equipped with remote maintenance modules: troubleshooting and fault remedying can be performed during operation, thus keeping service force travel to a minimum.



Regionality and renewable energies at SERRA Maschinenbau GmbH

The mobile sawmills of the subsidiary SERRA Maschinenbau GmbH in Rimsting are used by farmers and foresters as well as contract sawing companies. Ideally, the felled tree is sawn into timber for a building in the surrounding area. Instead of transporting the logs over long distances to central sawmills, the contract sawing company works on site, thus saving transport distances. The shortened value chain of forest owner – contract sawing company – carpenter keeps more added value in the region.



Since 2023, the company's buildings have been supplied with heat from a central cogeneration plant. 2 wood chip boilers of 100 kW each are operated in cascade: During the transition period, only one boiler runs, filling the 8,000-liter buffer tank in the boiler house. Wood chips are supplied from the surrounding area, and the heating system is designed to serve an additional building. Since 2016, SERRA has also been producing its own green electricity with a 57 kW peak PV system.

VAP-WINTERSTEIGER: Plant engineering and automation

The plants are equipped with state-of-the-art drive technology. With the new generation of our converters, the entire drive technology runs in a DC link system. The braking energy of individual drives is fed into this network and made available to other drives. This significantly reduces energy consumption and thus increases the efficiency of the plant.

Mettmach Solar Industrial Park

The offices and production halls at the location in the Solar Industrial Park in Mettmach draw green electricity from a photovoltaic system: all roofs are equipped with PV modules. Heating and cooling are provided by heat pumps. Of course, all light sources are based on energy-saving LED technology.



System of wood thin-cutting and wood surface repair machines

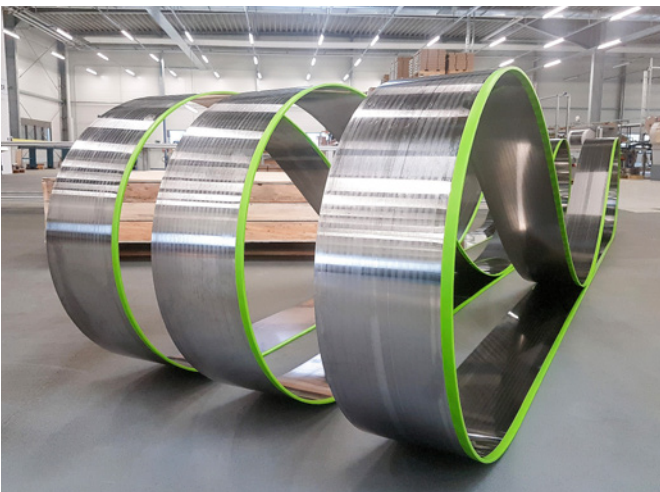


Increasing quality demands at WINTERSTEIGER Sägen GmbH

Saw blades for thin-cutting saws and joiner saws, mobile sawmills, resaw and log band saws, as well as saws for foodstuffs (meat, fish and vegetables) are produced by WINTERSTEIGER Sägen GmbH in Arnstadt, Germany.

The further development of the product range for resaw and log band saws as well as for mobile sawmills refers to alternative cutting materials. Alternatives are being tried and tested in all areas. Successively, the high quality standards from the thin-cutting band saw sector were adapted to the other product groups. The customer feels this further development in the cutting process. On the one hand, the power consumption of the machine is lower and the output is higher due to the higher accuracy during cutting. This results in 2 positive effects for the customer and his/her sustainability.

The cooling lubricant cleaning systems installed in 2021 and 2022 are running to our complete satisfaction. As planned, the disposal costs were reduced by 60% compared to the conventional variant. Reducing energy consumption in saw blade production is one of the most important goals for the coming years. The new hardening plant with a 20% energy saving is a further step in this direction and a PV system is planned for the new building.



Resaw and log band saws up to 260 mm



Saw blades for mobile sawmills

Division Seedmech

Field trials technology

In 1953 WINTERSTEIGER laid the foundation for the company in field trials technology. The following ecological aspects are incorporated into our machines and products:

- All WINTERSTEIGER machines use engines that comply with the strictest European exhaust gas standards.
- All over the world, machine service and maintenance are performed by local partners on site to keep travel to a minimum.
- Spare parts are supplied for a very long time, and this also includes machines that are more than 30 years old. This substantially prolongs the product service life: Machines that were delivered in 1975 are still in use today.
- The operating instructions provide details of environmentally friendly disposal of fillers and nonwovens.
- Machines are taken back, overhauled and resold.
- New machines are very user-friendly developed (ergonomics, safety, noise and smell reduction): The plot combine Quantum has a noise reduced cabin and it was built according to NORM EN 13531 and TOPS certified.





Division Metals

Leveling technology

In 2011, Germany's KOHLER Maschinenbau GmbH was integrated as the WINTERSTEIGER Group's Division METAL. KOHLER develops and produces part leveling machines and strip feeding lines for presses and automatic stamping machines, as well as cut-to-length lines, for steel service centers, for electrical and electronics industry, and for the automotive industry.

As early as 2006, the company started to establish a quality and environmental management system; it is DIN EN ISO 9001 (quality) and EN ISO 14001 (environment) certified. EN ISO 14001 defines globally accepted requirements for an environmental management system. To achieve certification a company must define a corporate environmental policy, environmental targets and an environmental program, as well as establishing an appropriate management system to help achieve these goals.

With the 2 certificates (quality and environment), KOHLER has established a unique selling point compared with its competitors.

- Starting with model series 85P, the Peak Performer partial leveler surpasses conventional machines on the market with an energy consumption reduction of up to 75 % due to the use of a direct drive of the leveling rolls as well as the electromechanical leveling gap control, which has been tried and tested for years. KOHLER's part leveling machines have no hydraulic systems whatsoever, which means that coupled with their excellent energy efficiency, they play an active role in saving resources in industrial sheet metal processing
- Servo motor instead of hydraulics - also for fixing the coils: this important function is performed by the servo motor-driven reel mandrel spreader, which results in lower operating and environmental costs.
- Even for strip processing lines with a leveling roll diameter of 40 mm to 65 mm, there is no use of the conventional transfer gearboxes with oil-lubricated cardan shafts to drive the leveling rolls and the strip puller. Instead, KOHLER also relies here on an energy-efficient drive concept with direct drives without cardan shafts. This significantly reduces maintenance effort and significantly increases energy efficiency.
- With electricity from its own photovoltaic system, KOHLER is making a further contribution to ecological sustainability. The roof of the 1500 m² production hall was equipped with 816 PV modules. This provides an output of 310 kWp.
- With electricity from its own photovoltaic system, KOHLER is setting new standards in environmental sustainability. The roof of the 1500 m² (16.150 sq ft) production hall was equipped with 816 PV modules. The PV system has been in operation since November 2023 and, with 310 kWp, is designed to be 100 % self-sufficient during the summer months.



Sustainable and future-proof

The corporate philosophy „Thinking about tomorrow“ and the focus on long-term relationships (employees, suppliers, customers) as well as on the longevity of the products show that sustainable thinking is deeply rooted in the corporate culture. Because only sustainable means fit for the future.



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