

Press release November 2021

Title: Full speed ahead through the crisis! Europlast achieves record year in 2021 and starts with innovative future topic in the field of hydrogen

There is positive news from the Upper Carinthian economy. The Drautal injection molding specialist Europlast is aiming for a historic sales record in the current fiscal year. From last € 40 million turnover one will be able to reach more than € 45 million this year. The Covid pandemic had little negative impact on business performance. "We are very experienced when it comes to crisis management" said GF Arthur Primus (Fig. 3). In addition to a total fire of the company and a subsequent restart, they have already had to cope with a partial roof collapse due to snow load, flooding and hail damage. The secret recipe for the economic success is the high utilization of the plants, which produce 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Utilization is made possible by a balance of different business areas and geographic customer segments throughout Europe, and beyond. "This year's highlight was certainly a delivery to Oman" says Mario Guggenbichler (Fig. 2, right with Manuel Lengfeldner from Quality Control) who is responsible for international sales.

The company is also very active in business development, i.e. the establishment of new business areas. GF Primus comments: "On the one hand, more and more customers want to take advantage of our expertise in recycling management and have us manufacture new plastic products from their end-of-life products in a CO2-neutral manner, and on the other hand, we are currently trying to manufacture internal parts of vehicle tanks for hydrogen. The size of our injection molding equipment is particularly decisive in this regard." Trucks in particular, but also ships, will need large tanks for hydrogen in the future; these must of course have a minimum dead weight and therefore plastic is a good solution. The technical requirements are high, for example, these tanks must be able to withstand pressures of up to 1000 bar in a pressure test. For this reason, the plastic InLiner is also specially wrapped with carbon fibers (Fig. 1). However, wrapping and pressure testing do not currently take place at Europlast, as the company is focusing on its core competence - injection molding. An 800 kWp photovoltaic system is currently being commissioned at the site, the yield of which should help to cushion the enormous cost increases in the area of green electricity. This plant was realized with local partners from Carinthia.

Infobox:

The company EUROPLAST Kunststoffbehälterindustrie GmbH was founded in 1995 and started production at the Dellach/Drau site in 1997. The company is part of the JCO Plastic SpA group and is 100% privately owned. EUROPLAST produces plastic containers for agriculture, food industry and logistics as well as recyclable material collection containers preferably from the raw material HDPE on large injection molding plants with more than 140 employees and operates its own recycling plant. Contract manufacturing for plastic injection molded parts is also offered. The company exports to all of Europe, and its core competence is the production of large injection molded parts weighing

up to 50 kg on the largest injection molding machines currently in use in Austria. Customers particularly appreciate the flexibility in order processing and the short delivery times. The company recently generated almost €40 million in sales, was able to win 2nd place Austria-wide in 2016 among Austrias leading companies in the "Golden Mittelbau" category (4th place in 2018 / 2nd place in Carinthia in 2019), and has been producing at the site for 2 years in a 100% CO2 neutral manner. One was awarded at the beginning of 2021 by the Federal Ministry as a family-friendly company.

Management: Dipl.-Ing. Dr. techn. Arthur Primus, born 26.05.1972 in Möllbrücke, married. HTL for mechanical engineering, study of industrial engineering mechanical engineering, doctor of technical sciences. Part-time lecturer at the Villach University of Applied Sciences and member of the supervisory board of Lindner Recyclingtech GmbH.