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Customer Report
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Investment by KABE Farben in new powder technical center strengthens market position

The family business Karl Bubenhofer AG (KABE Farben) in Gossau has renewed its powder technical center and invested in a high-tech powder coating plant, among other things. This plant is unique in the industry in this form. State-of-the-art application technology and flexible curing options enable practical coating tests, product developments and training at the highest level.



On the old pilot plant, Karl Bubenhofer AG was only able to depict the coating processes in a practical manner to a limited extent. This is why the family business in Gossau has invested in a modern powder coating system. This was assembled by the development engineers especially to their needs and is equipped for any variant of automatic and manual coating with powder paint.



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Technology at the highest level

The equipment of the new WAGNER plant leaves nothing to be desired. A spacious plastic booth with the latest generation of suction technology is equipped on both sides with three vertically arranged automatic guns on lifting devices. If required, each side can be upgraded to up to five guns. The dimensions of the parts to be coated are detected via a light grid and the lifting movements are executed accordingly. Application, conveyor chain and batch oven are controlled centrally via touch screens.

The powder paint is transported from the semi-automatic powder center PXS with integrated control and ultrasonic sieve through which the entire fresh and recovery powder flows. The interior of the powder center is made of chrome steel to customer specifications. The frequent cleaning processes in the pilot plant are thus carried out faster and without residues. The closed circuit enables the laboratory experts of Karl Bubenhofer AG to make verified statements about the behaviour of standard products and the high-tech metallic powder paints they have bonded themselves.



In addition to the latest coating and control technology, the new system offers excellent energy efficiency. The WAGNER EEP system with optimized piping and a flow-optimized cyclone enables the use of a compact extraction filter, which consumes 40% less energy.

The pilot plant is ideally suited for practical user training. Training participants use the central control module to monitor in real time which settings the laboratory technicians make and how these affect the coating result. This sustainably improves the learning effect for the participants.

Special equipment for coating temperature-sensitive substrates

For Karl Bubenhofer AG, the importance of the markets for alternative and temperature-sensitive materials is growing. These include plastics and in particular wood-based materials. The new coating system is equipped with counter-electrodes and software that allows high-quality coating tests to be carried out on parts made of MDF, for example for furniture, and other materials.



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The curing oven is a special design according to plans of the technicians of Karl Bubenhofer AG. The coated parts are transported directly from the booth to the batch oven, where the powder paint – controlled by medium-wave infrared emitters – is cross-linked. If required, the heating cassettes can be replaced with long-wave infrared emitters or UV emitters. In addition, the oven can be operated either in recirculation mode or in combined mode. An integrated infrared camera analyses and documents the networking processes. With this variability, development engineers can network, test and record all powder paint variants in a controlled manner.

Investment for a successful future

The new installation in the technical center of Karl Bubenhofer AG combines a realistic training system and a laboratory system for the development of new products. Modern technology enables the cross-linking of complete powder paint systems under optimal conditions. This allows the technicians to test their innovative product developments in a practical manner, intensively test the behaviour of powder paints in automatic systems and further raise the quality standard. At the same time, customers and interested parties will enjoy valuable training courses with state-of-the-art application technology. The preparation and cleaning effort is reduced enormously, which enables more tests in a shorter time at higher quality.

The modernized powder technical center of Karl Bubenhofer AG is unique in its kind. This extensive investment is an important pillar for the successful future of the family business and a clear commitment to the Gossau production site.





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Photos: Karl Bubenhofer AG, Gossau