

PRESS RELEASE

May 2014

Manual coating of heavy-duty municipal equipment

Resilient surfaces

"Leadership through Quality" is the motto of Springer Kommunaltechnik, Austria's largest manufacturer of road gritters and other municipal equipment. From snow plows to road sweepers – the Austrian specialists leave nothing to chance when it comes to painting their heavy-duty products. Here, perfect craftsmanship – assisted by state-of-the-art coating equipment – is the order of the day.

Springer Kommunaltechnik GmbH from Rangersdorf specializes in municipal and winter maintenance equipment including snow plows, gritters, snow blowers, road sweepers, watering systems and more. Their products are notable for high quality across the board. What that means in terms of coating technology is aptly summarized by Robert Lassnig, foreman at Springer: "The coating of the products plays a key role. Firstly, a superior finish reflects the quality of the products at a glance, and secondly, the quality of the coating has a direct influence on lifetime, especially in the case of equipment which is used in harsh winter conditions."

It therefore comes as no surprise that Springer sets high standards in the paint shop. Since all painting is done manually due to the company's diverse product range and small batch sizes, the result depends crucially on the skill of the personnel and the quality of the coating equipment. Consequently, only highly qualified staff work in the paint shop, and all components are sourced exclusively from the same manufacturer. Pumps,

mixing and dosing systems as well as spray guns for both paint shops are all supplied by J. Wagner GmbH in Markdorf.

"We have always used Wagner pumps, and have been very happy with them, as well as with the spray guns and dosing systems". We naturally shopped around before renewing our equipment, but decided to opt for Wagner again – in this case for the technically superior IceBreaker pumps, because of their extreme reliability and durability. The smooth operation of the pumps also ensures excellent coating results", says Lassnig.

Resilient coating with epoxy resin filler and acrylic paint

A total of six IceBreaker pumps and two mixing and dosing systems from the FlexControl plus series are installed at Springer, supplying both paint shops with primer and top coat. The undercoat for municipal equipment, which tends to get a lot of wear and tear, consists of a two-component epoxy resin filler, while the finish coat consists of two-component acrylic paint. At present, Springer sees no real alternative to solvent-based paints due to their quick-drying properties and above all their high resilience. Should they decide to change in the medium term, however, it wouldn't be a problem for the system technology. Both the pumps and dosing systems are readily adaptable to virtually any material up to four-component systems.



The paint shops at Springer are supplied by several pumps and mixing and dosing systems.

One of the major advantages of FlexControl plus systems – the quick and easy color change facility – is only of limited use in Springer's case. Since most municipal equipment tends to be painted orange, the need for a color change arises relatively seldom. When it does, however, it can be done in a few easy moves and takes less than ten minutes: you simply press a button to flush the system, and you're ready to go again. But there are other highlights which endear the mixing and dosing systems to Robert Lassnig: "For our application, the precise measurement and control technology of the FlexControl plus is critical, as it guarantees maximum process reliability and exact compliance with the set mixing ratios."

Hard-to-paint products

Even though Wagner technology creates the ideal conditions for an optimal result, the quality of the coating ultimately lies in the hands of the painter. Their job is anything but easy, however, as most parts have a complicated geometry with hard-to-reach areas and many edges and corners. It takes a skilled craftsman to achieve a high-quality coating under these conditions.



It takes a skilled craftsman to achieve a high-quality coating on parts with many edges and corners.

To make life as easy as possible for the painter, Springer tested a whole range of different spray guns before opting for the AirCoat manual gun GM 4700AC from Wagner. According to Robert Lassnig, "it was the ease of operation and ergonomic design of the gun that decided us, as well as the excellent atomization, which generates a gentle spray jet, and therefore a perfect coating result".

For Wagner in Markdorf, this positive assessment from practitioners in the field is a testimony to the intensive development work behind the product. What's more, the developers have managed to keep the weight of the device down to less than 600g, despite its high-quality forged housing. This ultra-light gun requires minimal trigger and holding forces, thereby ensuring optimal handling and effectively preventing operator fatigue.

"We are completely satisfied with our Wagner equipment and delighted with the results it gives us". Sourcing all our equipment from one manufacturer also means we have a single point of contact, which is a big advantage in day-to-day practice. Our experience of Wagner's customer service so far has also been entirely positive in terms of expertise, support and spare parts", concludes Robert Lassnig. The combination of skilled craftsmanship on the part of the painter and technical expertise on that of the equipment manufacturer will ensure that Springer Kommunaltechnik continues to maintain its quality commitment well into the future.

Text: Ralf Högel

About WAGNER:

WAGNER is a leading manufacturer of high-tech components and systems for the surface application of wet and powder coatings as well as paints and other liquid media. WAGNER surface finishing systems are used both in the industrial sector and by craftsmen and DIY enthusiasts.

WAGNER boasts a full range of products and technology, from material feeders through mixing, dosing, movement and control systems including material logistics to the surface application of the various media. Completing the product portfolio are booth and recovery systems for powder coating as well as gluing and marking systems.

The WAGNER Group has a global presence, with a workforce of approx. 1,450 people, 19 operative companies and around 300 WAGNER agencies worldwide.

The WAGNER Group is owned by the Josef-WAGNER Foundations which, in addition to supporting the group of companies, pursue exclusively non-profit, charitable aims.

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