Herz® NEWS

Issue December 2025

BIOMASS-MULTITASKING AT WOLLSDORF LEDER
ONE BINDER BOILER FOR 19 PRODUCTION PROCESSES
FROM PAGE 12

HEAT AND EFFICIENCY COMBINED
HERZ DISTRICT HEATING TRANSFER STATIONS
FROM PAGE 8

HERZ IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

HALF A CENTURY OF FULL CONFIDENCE

FROM PAGE 4

HERZ NEWS

Dear Readers,

the last issue of the year will reach you shortly before Christmas – the ideal time to discover exciting interviews and technical solutions for building technology. We start with Michael Schmidt, General Manager at Wollsdorf Leder: In an interview with HERZ News, he explains how he successfully uses a 5-megawatt BINDER steam boiler to generate steam, hot water, cold water and even electricity. A fascinating example of how far modern boiler technology can be taken today – or, in his words, "getting the most out of a boiler".

This time, our HERZ global series takes on a pretty "royal" tone: We find ourselves in the United Kingdom, where HERZ has been operating successfully for half a century. A lot has changed in the country since Brexit: Our colleagues on the ground report on the consequences and how they are adapting to the "new" normal. Further north on the world map, nature surprises us with its unexpected plans: In Sweden, a curious duck found its way into the smoke gas fan of a reference plant. Good news come from south-eastern Europe: The HIRSCH Servo Group is continuing its expansion and opening a new production chapter in Bosnia – a strong sign of growth in challenging times.

This issue takes you on a little journey through Europe – exciting from a technical perspective, surprising from a technological point of view and just right for the cosy Christmas season. With this in mind, we wish you happy holidays, a good start to the new year and much enjoyment reading this issue.

Nurgül Akbas
Editor-in-Chief, HERZ News

P.S.: Would you like to share something with us or be featured in the next issue? We welcome all feedback, suggestions and ideas from you via email at: herznews@herz.eu

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Note: For better readability, the masculine form is used for personal nouns, which of course refers to female as well as all other gender identities.

HONEST, BUT POSITIVE

Dear customers and partners,
dear friends of HERZ,

'You can't please everyone' – this also applies to the author of these lines. 'Don't be so negative, write positively and focus on the industry,' I am told. So let's give it a try and I hope I don't come across as bland.

HERZ is known for its strong market position in Eastern Europe: from Estonia to Bulgaria and from Czechia to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. What is less well known is that we have been represented in the United Kingdom for many decades, initially with a representative office and, since the gentlemen retired in the 1990's, with our own subsidiary. Continuing a certain tradition, the British have become accustomed to strong women at the top with Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister at the time, our sales manager Susanne Juza from Vienna also runs the business of the British subsidiary.

The British market is anything but easy. In European organisations, I have found British participants to be particularly forward-thinking and innovative in terms of certification, standard setting and performance improvements. The reality is somewhat mixed: the domestic market is dominated by cheap products from the Far East, British manufacturers have long since moved their production to China and similar destinations, and in many cases limit themselves to decorating imported products with a domestic label. In the field of public buildings or other prominent structures, quality is paramount – in contrast to price-driven domestic installations – and this is where HERZ is active, even if this market segment is relatively small in terms of size.

And regardless of political changes, we have come to the United Kingdom to stay. We are not yet as successful as the Normans in 1066, who conquered the island in a coup. A thousand years later, HERZ will be the dominant brand in the field of building technology; we still have a few decades to go.

All of us at HERZ wish you all the best, happiness and good health for the coming festive season.

Gerhard Glinzerer
gerhard.glinzerer@herz.eu

HERZ ON TOUR

HERZ trade fairs 2026

AUSTRIA

VIENNA
Expo Frauenthal
21st - 23rd January 2026
Hall A - Stand 301

WELS
WEBUILD Energiesparmesse
25th February - 1st March 2026
Hall 20 - Stand D40

ITALY

MILANO
MCE Mostra Convegno
24th – 27th March 2026
Hall 4 - Stand A07

GERMANY

ESSEN
SHK Essen
17th - 20th March 2026
Hall 3 - Stand 3B32

NUREMBERG
IFH Intherm
14th - 17th April 2026
Hall 4A - Stand 210

Scan now for HERZ 2026 trade fair calendar overview.

HERZ IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

HALF A CENTURY OF FULL CONFIDENCE

HERZ has been operating in the United Kingdom for five decades. Formerly known as Ellis Miller Ltd, it became part of the HERZ Group during its expansion in Europe. Since then, HERZ Valves UK has evolved from a specialist in radiator valves to one of the market-leading suppliers of heating and control products in building services engineering – primarily for commercial and residential buildings.

When you think of Great Britain, the first thing that usually comes to mind is the monarchy. The royal family is not only a symbol of national identity, but also a living tradition. Unlike many other European countries such as Germany and France, the monarchy in the United Kingdom was never completely replaced by a republic. The power of the monarch has been limited by Parliament over the centuries, which was formalised in 1689 with the Bill of Rights.

Although the monarchy is now constitutional in nature, it continues to have an enormous cultural impact: palaces, ceremonies, royal gardens – they shape the image of a country that cherishes its history as much as its modern self-image. In addition, the monarchy is seen as an important economic factor in the United Kingdom, as it boosts tourism and attracts many visitors to the country.

This sense of style, consistency and awareness of quality can also be found beyond the royal stage – namely where British life takes place on a daily basis: in the pub.

British beer culture

British beer is not just a drink, but a cultural link. For centuries, ales and bitters have been part of British social life. Ale is known for its traditional, often dark and only slightly carbonated style, which is served warm or at room temperature. A pub in the United Kingdom is therefore not just a bar, but a meeting place, a living room, sometimes even a small stage for everyday life. One of the best-known varieties is Newcastle Brown Ale, a strong, malty beer that has been synonymous with the typical taste of the north since 1927.

Brexit – and its effects

With the end of the transition period, the United Kingdom officially ceased to be part of the EU single market and customs union since 1st January 2021. Reasons cited for Brexit included criticism of mass immigration, high EU contributions and perceived excessive bureaucracy but its practical effects have been far-reaching for both people and businesses. "Public opinion is divided: Many blame both the UK government and the EU (Brussels) for the ongoing issues, while the public is increasingly determined not to be messed around. The government, however, appears to ignore this and is seeking to rejoin the EU through alternative means" reports Darren Hall, Operating Managing Director of HERZ Valves UK, directly from the United Kingdom.

Training centre on the premises of HERZ Valves UK in Peterborough.

Delivery times - more important than ever

The introduction of new customs checks, import declarations and rules-of-origin requirements immediately created longer lead times for materials and components. These changes added complexity, cost and unpredictability across the industry. Many European manufacturers faced delays at ports, additional documentation demands and increased administrative costs that ultimately influenced project timelines. Particularly challenging were the frequently changing French customs regulations, which significantly complicated imports and onward shipments from the United Kingdom. „We at HERZ were able to mitigate this situation through close cooperation with the Austrian headquarters and stronger inventory planning, but the new environment required rapid adaptation" says Darren Hall.

Adapting to the new normal

Brexit did not just reshape logistics, it also reshaped the UK market itself. Contractors, consultants and building operators have had to adjust to fluctuating prices, staffing challenges in technical roles, and a more cautious approach to procurement. For the wider public, Brexit prompted economic uncertainty, inflationary pressure, and a renewed focus on domestic energy security. As a result, the heating industry has increasingly prioritised:

- UK-ready certification and compliance
- Guaranteed availability of stock
- Locally supported product training and maintenance

Supply-chain resilience as a key element of project risk management

A key step was the relocation from its former site in Guildford to Peterborough. The new, centrally located facility not only provides significantly more storage space, but also benefits from stronger transport links. Another factor in choosing Peterborough as a location was the low operating costs, which enable HERZ to offer its products at competitive prices, thus creating a clear advantage

Cheers! Beer with little foam – just the way it is appreciated in the United Kingdom. While beer provides warmth here, HERZ products do the same in many buildings.

Photos: HERZ

The HERZ Valves UK team after successfully completing the "Driving Performance Course", which focused on leadership skills and understanding roles.

for customers. „Peterborough enables us to provide faster national coverage and significantly improves the availability of our products. This also allows us to ensure consistent prices", says Neil Gatland, Sales Manager at HERZ Valves UK. The company has also implemented a new computer system that enables customers to access stock levels, account information, create quotations and place orders in real time.

Local product adaptations: British certification systems

Many products in the United Kingdom must meet specific national testing and certification requirements – such as Regulation 4 or the BESA HIU performance test for hydraulic interface units, which is mandatory for the HNTAS (*Heat Network Technical Assurance Scheme*). To meet these requirements, HERZ has developed its own hydraulic interface unit (HIU) range, currently undergoing testing in accordance with the latest BESA and HNTAS guidelines. In addition, HERZ offers tailor-made HIUs for large heating networks that are precisely matched to project-specific performance and system needs. This combination of proven quality and bespoke solutions gives HERZ Valves UK a competitive advantage in one of Europe's most demanding markets.

Quality without compromise

„Our focus in the UK is on delivering engineering quality from the boiler house to the end point", explains Sales Manager Neil Gatland. The United Kingdom is a highly price-driven market where contractors often make decisions under tight cost pressure. „For HERZ, this means balancing competitiveness with uncompromising quality and ensuring that specification integrity and system performance are never sacrificed for a lower price", says Darren Hall, emphasising the standards of HERZ Valves UK.

HERZ references

For the award-winning residential project PRS Interchange in Central Square, Cardiff, HERZ Valves UK supplied a comprehensive range of products. At the heart of the solution were the Guildford hydraulic interface units, which stand out for their simplified maintenance, predictable long-term performance and low life-cycle costs. The solution was complemented by differential pressure controllers and presettable thermostatic radiator valves.

For the Britannia Leisure Centre in London, HERZ delivered a customised, compact district heating interface unit with a capacity of 1.5 MW. The unit provides energy- and cost-efficient heating for the newly built, state-of-the-art leisure centre and was developed in close collaboration with the project partners to meet the specific requirements of the new facility.

HERZ DE LUXE for the Royals

The HERZ DE LUXE range offers 18 modern colours for thermostatic heads and valves, combining precise engineering with contemporary design to suit every interior. Yet even this variety was not enough for one particularly prestigious project. For installation within a renowned historic building closely associated with British tradition, HERZ was asked to add a touch of royal elegance. The thermostatic valves in selected rooms were gold-plated, ensuring they not only delivered precise technical performance but also blended seamlessly with the building's refined surroundings.

HERZ DE LUXE also brings its style and performance to another iconic British institution: football. The range is installed in the VIP areas at Manchester United's stadium, where comfort and reliability are essential. Whether hosting global superstars such as Bruno Fernandes, Marcus Rashford, or Alejandro Garnacho, or welcoming distinguished guests on

matchday, HERZ valves help ensure the environment matches the world-class standard expected at Old Trafford.

HERZ for today and tomorrow

HERZ Valves UK is actively involved in professional development within the industry. The company offers CIBSE-certified seminars (*the British professional association for engineers*) for consulting engineers, operates its own training centre in Peterborough for hands-on courses covering the installation and maintenance of domestic transfer stations and collaborates with universities and technical colleges through workshops and guest lectures to pass on practical knowledge to future building services technicians. „Our vision is to promote a sustainable heating infrastructure in the UK through tested standards and practical support, establishing HERZ as a benchmark for performance, reliability and customer confidence", concludes Darren Hall.

Facts about the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (official name) is the largest island nation in Europe. Historically, the United Kingdom played a prominent role: from the 17th to the 20th century, the British Empire was the largest colonial empire in history. In the 18th century, the country developed into the world's first industrial nation and, after the Napoleonic Wars in the 19th century, assumed the role of the leading world power for decades – until the rise of the United States.

The United Kingdom also set standards in terms of infrastructure: on 10 January 1863, the London Underground, the famous 'Tube', opened, making it the oldest underground railway system in the world. Today, 253 miles of active lines criss-cross the metropolis. At the same time, London shaped global timekeeping: with Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), the city established a time zone that is still used as a reference for the whole world today.

- **Population:** approx. 69 million
- **Area:** 243.610 km²
- **States:** England, Wales Scotland, Northern Ireland
- **Capital:** London
- **Language:** English
- **Currency:** British pound
  1 € = 0,88 GBP
- **Form of government:** Constitutional monarchy
- **Head of state:** King Charles III

HERZ DE LUXE

Over time, the thermostatic head has also proven itself as an interior design element. In most cases, the thermostatic head is chosen to match the rest of the room's décor. For this reason, HERZ has collaborated with Porsche Design to develop a collection consisting of 18 different colours. From gold to ultramarine, from calypso to pergamon, many modern and timeless colours add the finishing touch to interiors.

Furthermore, efficiency does not always mean a major change or considerable effort. A simple hand movement can have a big impact in this area. HERZ thermostatic heads are the perfect solution for all new construction and renovation projects. Suitable for all standard thermostatic valves, the HERZ DE LUXE series in 18 different colours saves money in style – with the right colour option for every room.

Similar to the 'royal guards', HERZ thermostatic heads also perform their duties reliably – even in historic rooms where a touch of gold is required.

HERZ DISTRICT HEATING TRANSFER STATIONS

HEAT AND EFFICIENCY COMBINED

HERZ district heating transfer stations play a central role in the efficient distribution of heat in residential and industrial buildings. As the link between the district heating network and consumers, the district heating transfer station transfers and measures the amount of heat supplied and enables integration into a remote monitoring and control system. HERZ offers both prefabricated and customised district heating transfer stations.

HERZ district heating transfer stations offer a quick and straightforward solution for standard or special requirements, depending on the area of application. As a general rule, the output on the primary district heating side is controlled electronically in all district heating transfer stations. The installation of a heat meter is pre-configured. The compact design and easy accessibility of components enable user-friendly maintenance. HERZ specialists place particular emphasis on training users in the operation and maintenance of the district heating transfer station.

Prefabricated solution:
HERZ district heating transfer station 16 kw - 213 kW

HERZ district heating transfer station 16 kW - 213 kW has a compact design for easy integration into heating systems. With a return gradient of 2 K, it enables low return temperatures on the primary side. This is achieved by the generously dimensioned stainless steel heat exchanger insulated with rigid polyurethane foam. This is also responsible for low pressure losses on the primary and secondary sides.

The model is ideal for supplying single-family and multi-family homes, as well as commercial enterprises, and is available in 13 different output sizes.

Depending on the output range and temperature, the station is designed to be wall-mounted or free-standing. As a guideline:

- Wall-mounted::
  16 kW; 32 kW; 47 kW; 63 kW; 78 kW

- Freestanding:
  93 kW; 108 kW; 122 kW; 135 kW;
  148 kW; 172 kW; 194 kW; 213 kW

This guideline applies to primary temperatures of 85 °C / 52 °C and secondary temperatures of 70 °C / 50 °C.

HERZ district heating transfer station 16 kW - 213 kW is preconfigured and ready for connection. This means short installation times, low installation costs and high operational reliability from day one. All components – from the heat exchanger to the control system – are optimally matched to each other and designed for a long service life in continuous operation.

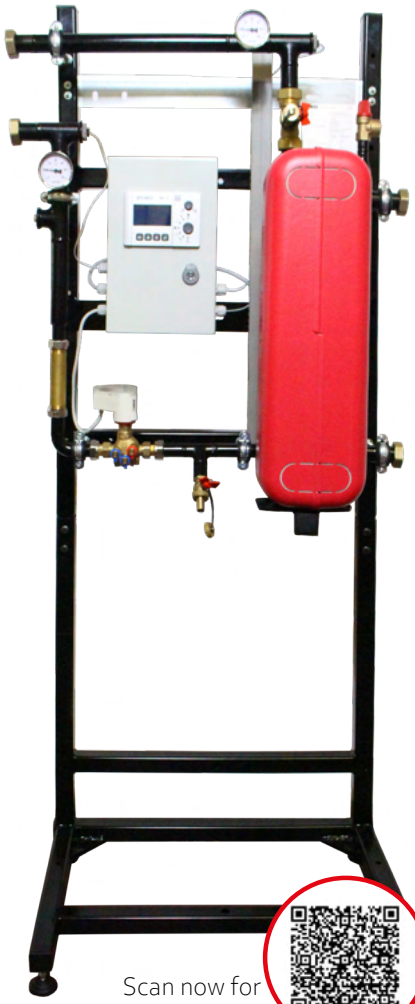
The most important components at a glance

The **stainless steel heat exchanger**, insulated with rigid polyurethane foam, along with the corresponding piping, ensures low pressure losses on both the district heating side and the heating system side

The **electronics** are equipped with a communication base module, an MBUS module for heat meters, and an RS422 bus module. Through the control unit with a clear-text display, primary return temperature optimization and 3-point control in the mixed secondary heating circuit can be adjusted, as well as an unmixed heating circuit for boiler charging.

The **combi valve-pressure independent control valve** ensures the dynamic maintenance of the pre-set flow rate and allows for the installation of a geared motor, optionally with a fail-safe function (accessory). This enhances safety and reliability in the event of a power failure by closing the valve.

The pre-installed 3-bar **safety valve** ensures proper operation and provides overpressure relief, preventing damage to the components.



Scan now for further details.

Scan now for further details.

Customised solution: HERZ district heating transfer station 20 kW - 4 MW

For projects with individual requirements, HERZ manufactures specially configured district heating transfer stations ranging from 20 kW to 4 MW. Each system is designed according to the customer's specifications, tailored to the size of the building, heat demand and usage profile. The design is based on the required output, return temperatures and volume flow to ensure reliable operation and compliance with the project-specific hydraulic conditions.

The system uses an XF 5000 microprocessor control, which regulates the operation of the district heating transfer station and ensures efficient heat supply. The electrical setup includes fuses, contactors, switches, and indicators for the circulation pump, as well as measuring and control devices with an electronic controller and input/output modules, a computing unit for the heat meter, temperature sensors, pressure transducers, and communication tools. The installation of a heat meter is prepared. The plate heat exchanger can be soldered or screwed together, depending on technical requirements. The heat exchanger plates are made of stainless steel. As a wall-mounted station or a free-standing district heating transfer station with a steel frame and adjustable height, the dimensions can be adapted to the intended installation site. Depending on the dimensions, the stations can be delivered as a complete unit or in several modules. All stations are factory-tested and ready for operation.

The "Plug and heat" function, along with good accessibility of components, allows for time and cost savings during both installation and maintenance.

Photos: HERZ

HERZ INTER

Modern technology means lower energy consumption with the same or even greater comfort—and no need to feel guilty about a warm home. That's why HERZ continuously develops innovations and efficient product solutions, ensuring this comfort remains affordable for everyone.

The Austrian HERZ Group, with its focus on energy efficiency and related production of biomass systems, heat pumps, valves, district heating stations, control technology, and insulation materials, provides the products needed for efficient supply solutions—and is uniquely structured in this way within Europe.

As an Austrian company, HERZ is highly successful in the HVAC industry worldwide, with 50 subsidiaries and 44 production sites across 12 European countries. HERZ products are considered indispensable when it comes to efficient supply and long-lasting quality. For this reason, they are in high demand and successfully used around the world—from Canada all the way to the Fiji Islands.

LATVIA

In eastern Latvia, district heating provider Rezekne relies on Austrian quality: two BINDER biomass boilers, each with a rated output of 7 MW, are supporting the gradual transition from natural gas to local biomass. They produce heat and hot water for around 40,000 residents and numerous public buildings.
In addition to wood chips, bark, small branches and needles with a water content of up to 55% are also used as biomass. A generously dimensioned burning chamber with precise and versatile control technology was designed for this purpose in order to optimally adapt the burning process to different biomass qualities. Each boiler has its own biomass supply, hydraulic and compressed air cleaning system, allowing them to be operated independently and flexibly. The boilers generate 105 °C hot water at 6 bar pressure and currently operate in parallel with the existing natural gas boilers.

Capital:	Riga
Language:	Latvian
Area:	64.589 km²
Population:	1,86 Mil.
Currency:	Euro

GERMANY

In the market town of Nennslingen (Bavaria, Germany), Nahwärme Nennslingen eG provides a sustainable heat supply with two HERZ firematic 501 wood chip boilers. A network of around 9.4 kilometres supplies 160 buildings with reliable and climate-friendly heat. At the heart of the heating system are the compact HERZ firematic 501 wood chip boilers with a total rated load of 1 MW, which operate in cascade mode. This mode of operation enables optimum adaptation to the respective heat demand: at partial load, the boilers operate in a modulating manner – the load distribution is changed on a weekly basis to ensure an even running time. The decision in favour of HERZ was based on the balanced price-performance ratio, the technical standard of the HERZ firematic 501 and the reliable customer service.

Capital:	Berlin
Language:	German
Area:	357.022 km²
Population:	83,51 Mio.
Currency:	Euro

RNATIONAL

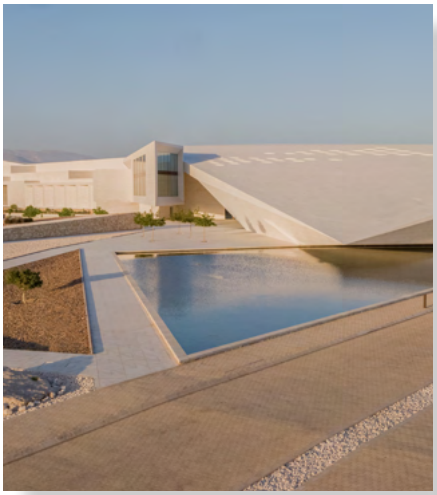
575 Mio.
Annual Revenue in Euros

3.200
Employees Worldwide

50
Subsidiaries

44
Production Sites in 12 European Countries

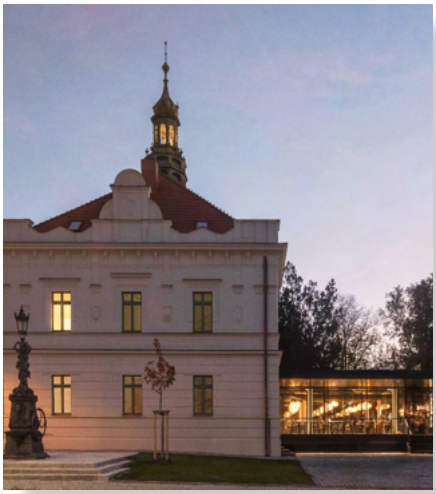
OMAN



The Oman Across Ages Museum in Nizwa, Oman, is a private museum that displays traditional Omani artefacts in a modern architectural setting, inspired by the country's Al Hajar Mountains. In 2024, it was named 'Project of the Year MEA' in the Cultural Heritage category at the Light + Intelligent Building Middle East in Dubai. As a full-service provider in building technology, HERZ supplied over 3,600 products, thereby ensuring the entire supply of chilled water, drinking water and control and regulation systems. HERZ's good reputation in the market spoke for itself: European quality and precise technology combined with a team that understands customer requirements and offers cost-effective solutions. The simple, time-saving installation and reliable technical support – both before and after installation – were particularly appreciated.

Capital:	Muscat
Language:	Arabic
Area:	309.500 km²
Population:	4,8 Mil.
Currency:	Rial Omani
	1 € = 0,45 OMR

CZECH REPUBLIC



Villa Fitz in Rokycany, Czechia, has recently undergone extensive restoration with the aim of combining historical elegance with modern efficiency. Built in 1869, the villa has been carefully renovated and complemented by a contemporary wing, which is seamlessly connected to the historic building by a striking glass tunnel housing a stylish restaurant and bar. In 2024, the villa was named 'Building of the Year in the Pilsen Region'. For this project, HERZ supplied STRÖMAX series balancing valves in combination with differential pressure controllers for precise hydraulic balancing. In addition, underfloor heating systems, rotary actuators and other solutions were supplied – with the necessary Know-how to implement efficient and reliable systems even in heritage-protected buildings. This is an example of how HERZ provides the right solutions even for demanding challenges.

Capital:	Prague
Language:	Czech
Area:	78.866 km²
Population:	10,7 Mil.
Currency:	Czech Koruna
	1 € = 24,24 CZK

Photos: HERZ

Michael Schmidt, General Manager at Wollsdorf Leder Schmidt & Co Ges.m.b.H.

BIOMASS-MULTITASKING

ONE BINDER BOILER FOR 19 PRODUCTION PROCESSES

Wollsdorf Leder has been an integral part of the Austrian leather industry for over 90 years and now has an international presence with locations in Europe, Asia, the USA and South America. But anyone who thinks that a traditional company rests on its laurels does not know Wollsdorf Leder. For generations, the company has been constantly rethinking its approach in order to respond to changing markets, technical requirements and global challenges. The latest step: a 5-megawatt steam boiler from BINDER, which plays an important role in the generation of steam, hot water, warm water, cooling and even electricity.

Wollsdorf Leder

As early as 1936, great-grandfather Alexander Schmidt laid the foundation for leather production, specialising in the manufacture of shoe leather at the time. The great 'tanner's decline' in the 1960s led to a switch to furniture leather, and the current factory in Wollsdorf, Styria, was built in 1976. However, the crisis of the 1990s also caused the furniture market to collapse. Instead of giving up, the Schmidt family relied on their skills and in-depth expertise in leather processing and found their way into what is still their core business today: technical leather for the automotive, interior and aircraft industries. Michael Schmidt, General Manager at Wollsdorf Leder, spent many years pioneering biomass technology in South America before returning to the family business. In an interview with HERZ News, he talks about his latest project: efficient process development at Wollsdorf with the help of a BINDER boiler.

HERZ News: HERZ News: Mr. Schmidt, you have had an impressive international career – from Canada to South America, from ship propulsion systems to power plants. How did you get into biomass?

Michael Schmidt: I worked on large energy and propulsion systems for many years. I have always been fascinated by biomass technology. In South America, I saw the potential to make entire industries more sustainable. We had already established efficient biomass solutions in

Chile and Uruguay at that time. That had a lasting impact on me.

HERZ News: What was the decisive reason for installing such a comprehensive biomass plant in Wollsdorf?

Michael Schmidt: From raw hide to finished leather, there are a total of 19 processes involved in leather processing. This means we have a wide range of energy requirements: steam, hot water, cold water and electricity. Our goal was to generate as much of this as possible using biomass. A boiler is an investment, so you should get the most out of it.

HERZ News: How is all this made possible by a boiler system?

Michael Schmidt: We opted for a 26 bar BINDER system, although theoretically we could manage with 7 bar. This allows us to use the system to generate electricity, which we need at certain points in the production process. So we divert 7 bar of steam to the consumers that run on steam and the rest goes to the power generation plant via a steam expander.

HERZ News: For which production steps in leather processing is the BINDER boiler used?

Michael Schmidt: For wet processes, we need water at different temperatures, from 25 °C to 60 °C. The BINDER boiler heats the service water, which we obtain from the Raab at 12 °C, to the respective temperatures. For drying, we use steam and, in some cases, electricity as a supplement. The leather is first pre-dried mechanically and then vacuum-dried. However, two-thirds of the drying process is thermal: hot water and cold from the absorption-chiller play a central role here in removing moisture from the drying air and bringing it back to the correct temperature.

HERZ News: Generating cooling from biomass is not common practice, is it?

Michael Schmidt: Cooling from biomass is a rarity, but a great thing if you know how it works. Our absorption-chiller uses residual heat and converts it into cooling. The entire plant is thermally controlled: we produce as much heat as our processes require, and this thermal operation generates cooling and even some electricity as a by-product. For every megawatt hour of steam we produce, we generate around 60 to 80 kilowatt hours of electrical power. This allows us to really get the most out of the BINDER boiler.

HERZ News: Does the BINDER system run continuously at full capacity as a result?

Michael Schmidt: The system is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Thanks to its excellent modulation, the BINDER boiler continuously adapts to actual demand and has significantly lower energy consumption. In principle, we consume less energy in kilowatt hours than before with the gas boiler, but that was also the intention. The 26 bar pressure gives us slightly superheated steam, which ensures ideal conditions throughout the entire network – no more steam blows, even in the most remote pipes.

HERZ News: In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges of a biomass plant?

Michael Schmidt: The effort involved in operating a biomass plant is, of course, greater than that of a gas boiler. You need more personnel, more space and so on. I believe that is also the reason why many industries are reluctant to switch to biomass. At the end of the day, however, it definitely pays off – both economically and ecologically. The economic costs alone are half those of operating a gas boiler.

HERZ News: Apart from economic effi-

Michael Schmidt and HERZ News in front of the multi-talented BINDER boiler in Wollsdorf.

Photos: HERZ

ciency, what advantages does the plant offer you in practice?

Michael Schmidt: Independence is also a big factor. We are less vulnerable to supply chain problems and have options: we can burn round timber or wood chips. That gives us a freedom we would never have with gas. If there is no gas, then everything comes to a standstill or you have to run the plant on oil, which costs a fortune.

HERZ News: What role did subsidies play in the implementation of this project?

Michael Schmidt: We already wanted to switch to biomass for economic reasons, and then the subsidies came along, which was ideal for us. To qualify, we have to prove that we are saving 5,000 tonnes of CO_2 per year. We have already achieved this goal, as we have completely switched off the gas.

HERZ News: So your business has been running completely without gas since September. How does this step feel?

Michael Schmidt: Good, very good indeed. Many companies buy a biomass boiler but only use it during the heating season. The system then often stands idle for eight months, which makes the investment expensive. We use the boiler all year round. The reserve boilers remain on oil as a backup, but our goal was clear: to switch off the gas completely, and we have succeeded in doing so.

HERZ News: You process leather for the automotive industry, among others. How do you see the future of the industry in these difficult times?

Michael Schmidt: These are tough times – inflation, constantly changing conditions, geopolitical uncertainties – but one thing is clear: those who remain flexible, embrace innovation and are prepared to build new solutions from challenges will survive. That has always been the case – and it is still the case today.

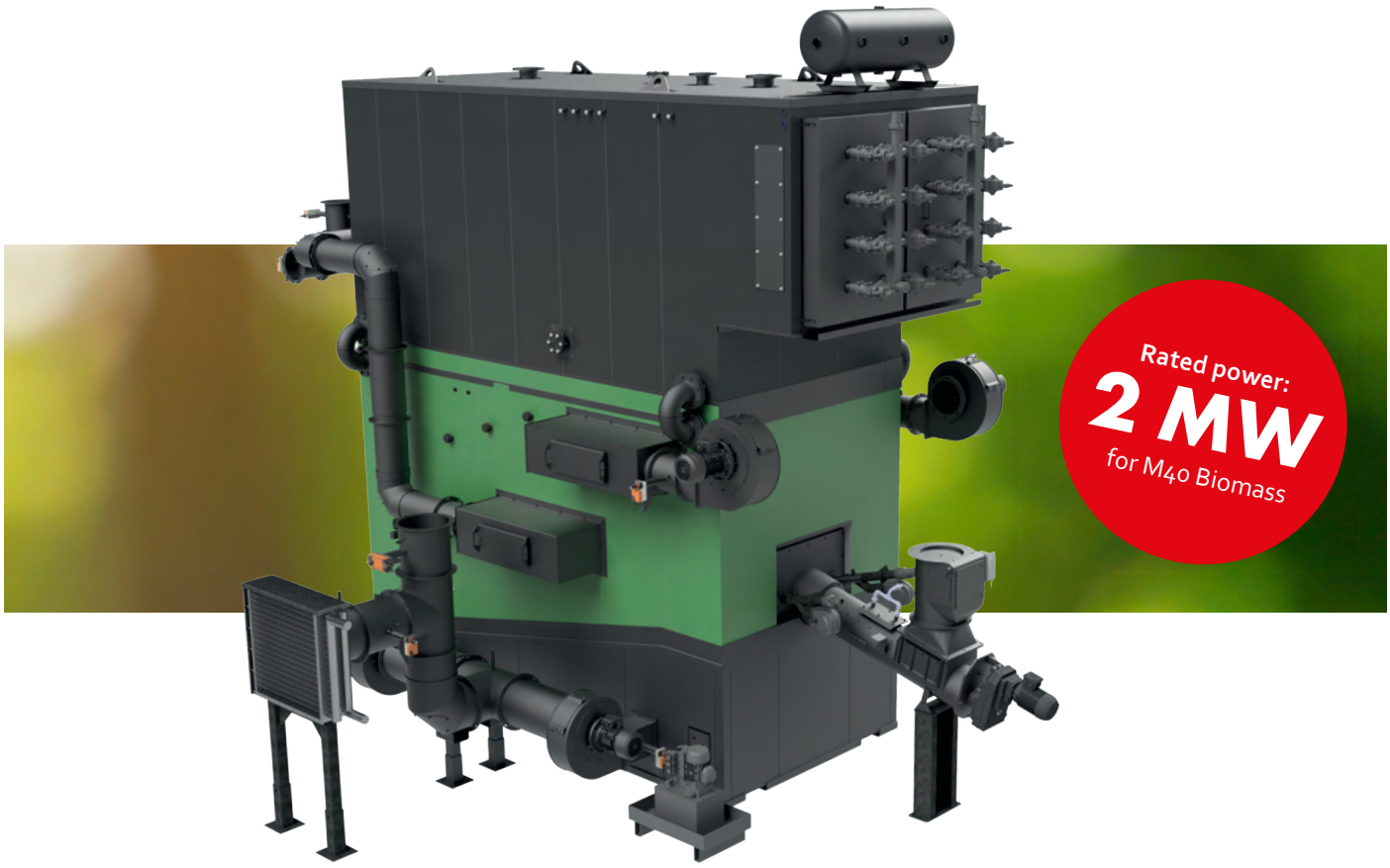
HERZ News: Mr. Schmidt, thank you very much for talking to us – and for showing us how much can be achieved with a single biomass plant. Your approach is not only impressive, but also a real example of what innovative process management can look like in practice.

Did you know that...

... leather processing already played an important role in everyday life in the Stone Age?

Stone Age tools for working animal skins, Mousterian culture (Jerusalem, 250,000 – 50,000 BC).

Archaeological finds of tools show that animal skins have been used for clothing and shelter since the Palaeolithic period (2.5 million to 10,000 BC). In order to protect animal skins from rotting, humans developed simple tanning techniques as early as the Stone Age: First, meat and fat residues were removed with sharp flint scrapers, then the skins were dried in the sun or over smoke. Over time, other treatment methods were added: salts, boiled animal substances such as brains or liver, and fats made the skins increasingly durable, softer and even water-repellent.



BioFire 2000 TAURUS

POWERFUL – ROBUST – RELIABLE

The BioFire 2000 Taurus is specially designed for long-term reliable operation in industrial environments and covers a power range of up to 2 megawatts. The intelligent CVP power and combustion control continuously monitors the heat demand and automatically adjusts the fuel supply and air volumes. The result: optimal combustion across the entire power range with minimal power consumption.

The HERZ BioFire 2000 Taurus is an industrial version of the wood chip and pellet boiler and is designed for long-lasting, reliable operation. The combustion chamber with push grate firing is completely fireclay-lined, stoichiometrically optimised and has primary and secondary air zones. A hydraulically operated push grate enables the combustion of wet and ash-containing material, while fully automatic ash removal is carried out via an ash slide.

A central element is the smoke gas recirculation, which minimises emissions and slag. At the same time, the combustion air is automatically adjusted and additional heat is fed back into the heat exchanger. Especially for biomass with a high calorific value, low ash melting point or high nitrogen content, this technology ensures constant energy yield with minimal environmental impact.

Automatic pipe cleaning: Longer running times, less effort

The boiler pipes are cleaned fully automatically using compressed air. This significantly reduces the cleaning effort and enables longer running times, even at low exhaust gas temperatures. District heating providers benefit from higher availability and high boiler efficiency.

Intelligent control: Real-time efficiency

The CVP power and combustion control system continuously determines the current heat demand and controls both the material feed and the air volume in a stepless manner. It is supported by dynamic, lambda-controlled secondary air, automatic negative pressure compensation and speed-controlled fans. ☑

Photos: HERZ

THE DUCK PARALYSES THE BOILER

A SURPRISE IN THE SMOKE GAS FAN

Unexpected challenges are as much a part of plant engineering as wood is to a boiler. While technical glitches or weather are usually what you plan for, there are moments when reality proves more creative than any fault list – for example, when an entirely different "foreign object," like a duck, ends up in the smoke gas fan. Decades of collaboration between HERZ and Clean Burn Bioenergi AB in Sweden demonstrate that even when things get truly "ducked up," the partnership remains solid – and so does the heat supply.

Fly, Duck, Fly – Just not there

Since 2010, Clean Burn Bioenergi AB from Gothenburg, a Swedish provider of sustainable biomass systems, has been working closely with HERZ Energietechnik. For the Swedish industry, energy suppliers and even temporary heating projects, the company relies on one thing above all: Robust HERZ biomass boilers with outputs from 100 kW to 2.000 kW, offering flexible options for biomass handling and cascade technology.

One particularly exciting project is the Hamra Gård farm, DeLaval's showcase for modern milking technology. There, two HERZ firematic 499 kW biomass boilers with distribution hoppers provide reliable heat – at least until an unexpected guest appeared in the smoke gas fan.

"The system showed unexplained symptoms like outrageous lambda values and performance drops. Multiple service visits, replacements of T-Control and lambda sensors were carried out to investigate the unusual issue. For a final check, I drove there myself, set the smoke gas fan to 100% and noticed when opening the combustion chamber that no air was being drawn in. That's when we discovered the duck in the fan", says Bosse Augustsson, Managing Director of Clean Burn Bioenergi AB. He hopes the ducks will take their flights elsewhere in the future. And even when a duck steals the show, in the end, everything runs smoothly – and, of course, stays warm. ☑

Life was claimed by the flue, poor duck...

Contract signing in Glanegg:
From left to right: Wolfgang Landler, CEO of the HIRSCH Servo Group, together with Osman Tukić, Managing Director of TERRASIT INSULATION d.o.o., point to the TERRASIT site.

ZDRAVO BOSNO

HIRSCH SERVO EXPANDS INTO BOSNIA

The Austrian HIRSCH Servo Group, European market leader for EPS insulation materials, sustainable packaging solutions and global leader in machinery and technologies for particle foam processing, is continuing its expansion in South-Eastern Europe: On 1 January 2026, HIRSCH Porozell GmbH will acquire 60% of TERRASIT INSULATION d.o.o., based in Gračanica, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Zdravo Bosno: New chapter in production in South-East Europe

Founded in 2000, TERRASIT specialises in the manufacture of expanded polystyrene (EPS) and expanded polypropylene (EPP) products for the construction, industrial and packaging sectors. In addition to high-quality thermal insulation boards and underfloor heating systems, TERRASIT also produces technical moulded parts and customised packaging solutions. These are areas in which the HIRSCH Servo Group, a subsidiary of the HERZ Group, has already proven itself worldwide.

"With TERRASIT, we are not only expanding our production network in South-East Europe, but also gaining an experienced partner with strong customer relationships in Central, Southern and South-Eastern Europe. TERRASIT ideally complements our portfolio – both in the insulation sector and in technical moulded parts and packaging", explains Wolfgang Landler, CEO of the HIRSCH Servo Group, adding: "We were particularly impressed by the high product quality and the strong customer focus".

As of the beginning of the year, the HIRSCH Servo Group's production network comprises 35 locations in 11 European countries.

The previous owner of TERRASIT, Osman Tukić, will remain with the company as managing director and will hold 40% of the shares in future. "I am proud to become part of the HIRSCH family – a company that has stood for innovation, sustainable technologies and economic stability for over five decades. Together, we want to open up new markets and further expand our technological expertise", emphasised Osman Tukić at the signing of the contract in Glanegg.

TERRASIT currently employs around 40 people.

Photos: HERZ, HIRSCH Servo Group

EDUCATION WITH HERZ

PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE

At HERZ, training and knowledge transfer are not just empty words, but everyday practice. HERZ wants to supply not only products, but also expertise – practical, understandable and always with a view to on-site application. Whether pupils, students or professionals, HERZ is there to support when it comes to in-depth knowledge of building services engineering. The focus is always on communicating complex topics in an understandable way and demonstrating practical solutions.

HERZ employees were once again actively sharing their knowledge this autumn. One focus was on hydraulic balancing – a key issue for energy efficiency in buildings. However, HERZ is not only active in this area and also shares its expertise in related topics such as measuring systems and energy-efficient solutions in specialised areas such as healthcare.

Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying

The 46th conference and training session for energy experts took place at the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying in October 2025. Around 50 energy experts from all over Austria – from Vorarlberg to Burgenland – came together. HERZ was also among the speakers, focusing on hydraulic balancing and its simple implementation in practice using valves. "It is important to me that people not only listen, but also understand how they can really implement the solutions in everyday life. Then the whole thing

Patrick Rajkovats, HERZ Application Technology, at the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying for the conference and training of energy experts.

is fun and makes sense", says Patrick Rajkovats, who has been giving HERZ presentations for years. His expertise goes far beyond the products: Rajkovats has a fundamental understanding of all aspects of building technology and knows how to convey complex concepts in a way that is easy to understand and practical. No wonder he was 'overrun' with questions even during the breaks – the participants appreciate his expertise and his lively way of imparting knowledge.

Anton Mayer, Head of Application Technology and Product Management at HERZ Armaturen, at the ÖVKT Autumn Symposium.

ÖVKT Autumn Symposium: Energy efficiency in healthcare

The autumn symposium of the Austrian Association of Hospital Technicians (ÖVKT) focused on the energy efficiency of building services systems in the healthcare sector. Anton Mayer, Head of HERZ Application Technology and Product Management, explained to around 50 attendees how the requirements of the European Green Deal can be implemented and how hydraulic balancing can contribute to the efficient implementation of these requirements. The aim is to reduce emissions in Europe by at least 50% by 2030 and to become climate neutral by 2050.
Participants were given practical solutions on how to implement the requirements in their facilities – another example of how HERZ combines theory and practice in a meaningful way.

Linz vocational school: Measuring computers and more

HERZ focuses on more than just hydraulic balancing. At the vocational school in Linz, teachers from the building technology department received valuable tips and tricks for working with measuring computers. Mr. Rajkovats led the training session and demonstrated what really matters when it comes to measurements.

Practical, individual and free of charge

HERZ offers training courses free of charge – either directly at the company headquarters or flexibly on site at the customer's premises, in schools or at partners' premises. In this way, the company wants to ensure that specialist knowledge is available exactly where it is needed.

Antifreeze valve

Small valve – big protection

If the medium temperature falls below 3 °C, the antifreeze valve automatically protects the heat pump circuit from dangerous pressure caused by freezing water: Air flows into the system via the integrated vacuum breaker, while water drains off in a controlled manner, ensuring reliable pressure relief.

Robust and corrosion resistant – for reliable protection of your system in critical situations.

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