

Rittal To Build World's Most Advanced Production Plant

Rittal is expanding its production capabilities and building the world's most advanced production plant for compact enclosures in Haiger, Germany, with completion scheduled for 2018.

Total capital expenditure will amount to 250 million euros, making it the largest single investment in the company's history.

State-of-the-art infrastructure and digitisation will underpin highly-efficient production, logistics and communications processes.

There will be corresponding upgrades to two other plants in the region, and the construction of a further plant for large stainless-steel enclosures.

The 24,000 m² Haiger facility will manufacture 9,000 enclosures a day from 300 standard types, in accordance with each customer's specific needs.

Digital technology will play a key role, as will machining and assembly tools from Rittal Automation Systems' portfolio. Materials will be transported across the plant by means of automated guided vehicles (AGVs), dispensing with human operators. Intelligent systems, with machine-learning abilities will be deployed to continuously increase system availability, and to predictively order spare parts, reducing the likelihood of unplanned downtime due to wear and tear.

Fully automated control systems, for example in the paint shop, will minimise energy consumption, costs and environmental impact.

Haiger will act as a pilot and model for upgrades at other Rittal sites throughout the world. Digitisation of production processes is vital to delivering future improved efficiencies. It is key to achieving the productivity needed to compete in the global marketplace and to create a secure platform for our workforce in all the locations where Rittal operate.

The Rittal Global Distribution Centre (GDC)

Rittal has also invested over 40 million euros in a state-of-the-art distribution centre.

Up to 80 trucks a day leave the GDC every day shipping some 10,000 products to customers around the world.

It has a fully automated, high-bay warehouse with 21,500 pallet positions for large enclosures, as well as an automatic small parts warehouse with 25,000 container positions.

A high-performance computer controls the incoming orders around the clock, stores details of incoming and outgoing products, and works out which pallet is to be loaded onto which truck.

Further information at www.rittal.co.uk and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com or on twitter @rittal_ltd.

Press Information:

Richard Andrews,
Marketing Services Manager,
Email: information@rittal.co.uk

Image

Picture shows: The ceremony to mark the laying of the foundation stone for the facility in Haiger. From right to left: Premier of the State of Hesse, Volker Bouffier; Debora Loh; Dr Friedhelm Loh, owner and CEO of the Friedhelm Loh Group; Wolfgang Schuster, chairman of the local council; Mario Schramm, Mayor of Haiger; Dr Köhler, CEO of Rittal International; and Carsten Röttchen, Executive Vice President, Production

Notes

Rittal, headquartered in Herborn, Hessen, Germany, is a leading global provider of solutions for industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure, as well as software and services. Systems made by Rittal are deployed across a variety of industrial and IT applications, including vertical sectors such as the transport industry, power generation, mechanical and plant engineering, IT and telecommunications. Rittal is active worldwide with 10,000 employees and 58 subsidiaries.

Its broad product range includes infrastructure solutions for modular and energy-efficient data centres with innovative concepts for the security of physical data and systems. Leading software providers Eplan and Cideon complement the value chain, providing interdisciplinary engineering solutions, while Rittal Automation Systems offers automation systems for switchgear construction.

Founded in Herborn in 1961 and still run by its owner, Rittal is the largest company in the Friedhelm Loh Group. The Friedhelm Loh Group operates worldwide with 18 production sites and 78 international subsidiaries. The entire group employs more than 11,500 people and generated revenues of around €2.2 billion in 2014. For the seventh time in succession, the family business has won the accolade "Top German Employer" in 2015.

Further information can be found at www.rittal.com and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.