

## User report

### Transparent laths benefit employees

Franz Haas Waffelmaschinen GmbH equips new production hall with EFAFLEX high-speed doors.

**Despite highly developed technology, the human eye has the task of monitoring, assessing and steering in extremely complex production processes. This work requires adequate, glare-free light. Daylight in the workplace ensures safe working and increases concentration. Franz Haas Waffelmaschinen GmbH, in the Austrian town of Leobendorf, has installed EFAFLEX STT high-speed turbo doors in its new production hall.**

"The doors have transparent laths that let plenty of daylight into our production hall", Johann Pichler explains. He is Head of Building Management at the Leobendorf plant. "It is healthier for our employees to have supplementary hall lighting, while primarily benefitting from natural daylight in the areas around the door openings." This considerably improves the quality of the workplace and helps, among other things, the recognition of dangerous situations and the avoidance of accidents. Being able to see through the door to the outside also means a pleasant working environment for employees. Made from SAN acrylic glass, which is more permeable to light than glass, the door laths weigh only a fraction of glass and remain clear in the long term. "EFAFLEX was the first supplier to be able to offer us lots of light whilst also offering a level of high insulation with the doors", says Johann Pichler. A temperature of between 19 and 21° Celsius must be maintained in the interior of the production area in accordance with workplace regulations. "The doors contribute significantly to maintaining these values without driving up our energy costs."

The look was also important to the planners. "The doors look very pleasing. One of the doors leads into the showroom for our customers, they come to visit our plant from around the world to consult on purchasing decisions or to purchase machinery", Johann Pichler explains. "Naturally, we want to offer visitors an attractive environment."

A total of nine fully automated high-speed doors have now been installed at the plant, some at very sensitive points, such as the delivery areas. Nothing should get stuck there. "Quite apart from the fact that building security could not be guaranteed after working hours and our employees would be freezing in winter, detours would disrupt the receipt of goods, or bring it to a halt entirely", Johann Pichler describes an emergency.

But there was nothing wrong with the door mechanics. In general, the price-performance ratio adds up very well. The support provided by the staff at EFAFLEX Torsysteme GmbH during the planning and construction phases, as well as in service, is also competent and flexible.

Employee flexibility and lifelong product support, as well as always finding a solution to suit the customer needs are also embedded in the Haas Group's corporate philosophy. Construction and development at the highest technical level are very closely linked with the family business, with more than a 100 year history. The master machinist, Josef Haas, started out in Vienna shortly after the turn of the century with building fitter work and machine repairs. During the Second World War he relocated a portion of his production equipment to what is now the Czech Republic. His son Franz, who had learned the family business together with his brother Karl, was charged with the management of the site. His interest in wafer machines was aroused with the repair of a waffle iron. He was able to introduce his first wafer machine in 1948, back in Vienna once again. Encouraged by the initial commercial success, he commenced development of a

wafer production line. It was on this basis that he founded the company Franz Haas Waffelmaschinen GmbH in 1966 together with his wife, Maria.

The Haas Group has secured solid growth through the acquisition of product-enhancing companies in the 1980s and 1990s and the establishment of subsidiaries in the Netherlands, China and Denmark, as well as further development of its particular fields of business. The corporation currently employs 1,400 members of staff worldwide, of whom 600 are employed at the headquarters in Leobendorf.

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