

CASE STORY

Digital | Graphic

Elco AG Brugg, Switzerland

As part of a retrofit project, Elco AG has modernised their paper waste disposal plant. Thanks to four new fans in negative pressure operation, energy consumption has been reduced by 120 kilowatts. In production this means clear savings in operating costs.

Since the beginning of this year, Elco AG (Brugg), has been working with disposal technology which has, in large part, been modernised. The remodeling consisted of the exchange of an old for a modern control management with automatic switch-off. In addition, the old fans and cutters, as well as parts of the ducting system from a third-party supplier were replaced with state-of-the-art technology. This retrofit project was planned and carried out by Hunkeler Systeme AG.

Greater performance, less noise emission

With the retrofit, Elco AG has increased productivity and improved their energy management. The transport capacity today achieves a total air volume of 100,000 cubic metres per hour. This exceeds that of the previous plant by 15,500 cubic metres. Despite increased performance, the plant operates more quietly than before. As measurements show, the noise emissions, thanks to the new technology, have fallen from an earlier 96 dB(A) to 86 dB(A).

Negative pressure and automatic switch-off

The new control system developed by Hunkeler Systeme AG has had an even stronger effect. Thanks to an automatic switch-off, the four fans with ten main lines operating in negative pressure are only in operation when paper waste is being

removed from the production lines. If one or more of the lines is not in production mode, then the automatic switch-off puts the corresponding fan into stand-by mode. Thus, the energy consumption of the system can be reduced, even at full capacity, from 300 to 180 kilowatts. Elco AG expects that, in contrast to the older technology, the annual operating costs to be reduced by a six-digit sum in Swiss francs, as the CEO of the company, Hans-Jörg Aerni, confirms (see box).

Classic printed products and online media

Elco AG began life with the production of envelopes. Their present form is a result of the amalgamation of several firms over the last five decades. Their area of business has expanded over time; as well as office and stationery goods, Elco AG devel-



If there is no production on one or several lines, the automatic switch-off puts the corresponding fans in stand-by mode.

ops and produces marketing campaigns and personalised mailings. This means that the company operates with classic printed products alongside online media. Elco AG is committed to Switzerland

as their production location. 300 people are employed at their headquarters in Brugg.



Complete conversion in sixteen days

“We planned the Christmas and New Year period for the conversion of our disposal plant. Hunkeler Systeme AG therefore had a very tight time schedule. After sixteen days of refitting, we were able to put the new plant into operation as planned on the 8th January. Since then, we have been operating in triple shifts without interruption. As our projections show, we will be able to reduce our annual operating costs by a six-digit figure, thanks to the new control system developed by Hunkeler Systeme AG.”

Hans-Jörg Aerni, CEO Elco AG