



# CASE STORY

## Recycling

**Leuthold Mechanik AG**

Einsiedeln (Switzerland)

## Safe production – fifty times volume reduction

**About twenty years ago, Leuthold Mechanik AG invested in its first extraction system with briquetting press. In the meantime, 40 machines for the production of aluminum containers are connected to four extraction and compaction systems. In the near future, capacities are to be further extended.**

The roots of Leuthold Mechanik AG go back to the 1970s. At that time, Heinz Leuthold, a budding toolmaker, began manufacturing special parts for the machine industry. The company continues to develop and build tools today, now on an industrial scale: 210 people are currently employed at the modern production facility in Kobiboden in Einsiedeln.

### From toolmaker to packaging producer

However, the activities of Leuthold Mechanik AG are no longer limited to toolmaking. Twenty years ago, the company began to use its punching and deep-drawing tools in innovative machines for the production of thin-walled aluminum containers for the food industry. Today, Leuthold Mechanik AG supplies complete system solutions to customers around the globe.

The entry into packaging production marked the beginning of the cooperation with Hunkeler Systeme AG. On the eccentric presses, the aluminum grids that accumulate during the punching and deep-drawing process have to be removed from the production environment as quickly and easily as possible.



Leuthold Mechanik AG currently has 40 machines connected to four extraction and compaction systems from Hunkeler Systeme AG. The production technology is soon to be expanded.



After crushing, a press processes the aluminium particles to briquettes with a density of 1.8 to 2 kilograms per cubic decimetre.

### Efficiency and high density

Today, 40 machines are connected to four suction and compaction systems in Einsiedeln. The 800 millimeter wide aluminum grids are extracted under permanent tension of the material and shredded in a shredder integrated into the pipeline. A press compresses the particles into briquettes with a density of 1.8 to 2 kilograms per cubic decimeter. Compared with the non-compacted material, this corresponds to a volume reduction of around fifty times.

The greatest benefit lies in the very efficient disposal of the aluminum grids via a pneumatically operated system and in the extremely high density of the briquettes, says Heinz Leuthold. It is the technology of Hunkeler Systeme AG that ensures quiet and orderly production. The plants are only shut down between 12 noon on Saturday and 10 o'clock at night on Sunday. During the other hours, production in Einsiedeln is uninterrupted. There is no back-up. All four extraction and compaction lines must function reliably at all times.

### The partnership continues

The aluminum container business has developed well. Leuthold Mechanik AG has known how to take advantage of this. Within ten years, the company's workforce grew from 75 to 210 employees.

Now the company is reaching the limits of its capacity. A temporary building is to provide temporary relief until a planned new building is completed. For the expansion of the production technology, Leuthold Mechanik AG has considered a further cooperation with Hunkeler Systeme AG. The solution-oriented consulting, the well thought-out system engineering, the professional project management, the reliability of the technology, the excellent service – Heinz Leuthold and his team do not want to miss these qualities.



Thanks to the briquetting press, Leuthold Mechanik AG achieves a volume reduction of around fifty times that of non-compacted material.



"It is loyalty that counts. As a customer, we have the same obligation to our suppliers as the supplier has to us. Our more than twenty years of cooperation with Hunkeler Systeme AG is based on this simple fact."

*Heinz Leuthold, Chairman of the Board  
Leuthold Mechanik AG, Einsiedeln*