

Digital / Graphic CASE STORY

Bubu AG, Mönchaltorf (Switzerland)

Energy consumption significantly reduced

By installing a highly efficient extraction system with a high performance baling press, the bookbinding company Bubu AG has reduced its electricity consumption by 71 percent.

After 25 years of operation, Bubu AG in Mönchaltorf decommissioned its old extraction system from Hunkeler Systeme AG at the end of 2024. Over the turn of the year, technicians from the company in Wikon installed a new system. Daily operations at the bookbinding facility continued uninterrupted during the installation.

In the bookbinding process, production residues from a total of nine machines must be automatically extracted and compacted. Due to its design, the previous system operated at full capacity even when not all machines were in use. This resulted in unnecessary energy consumption that was not utilized.

Demand-based extraction performance

The new system is based on a different concept. Its core is the Energy Saving System (ESS) from Hunkeler Systeme AG. Six extraction lines are assigned to the nine production machines and lines, with each line directly connected to its designated machine and equipped with a pipe shutter. If one or more machines are idle, the corresponding pipes are automatically closed.

Depending on how many machines are in operation, the system control adjusts the power requirement via a frequency converter. This ensures that electrical energy is only used when it is actually needed for production.



The ESS energy-saving system from Hunkeler Systeme AG forms the heart of the new installation. Integrated pipe shutters open and close automatically depending on whether production is taking place on a machine in the bookbinding facility.



Compared to the previous press, the bale weight has more than doubled. The revenue from wastepaper has increased, while the effort required for bale handling has decreased.



Thanks to the new system concept, whose energy efficiency clearly surpasses that of the old technology, the consumption of electrical energy could be reduced by 71 percent.

Increased productivity, lower costs

With the previous system, a large portion of Bubu AG's total energy consumption was attributed to extraction and compaction technology. Thanks to the new system concept, which significantly surpasses the energy efficiency of the old technology, this share has been reduced by 71 percent. At the same time, the availability of the nine production lines has increased with the new, reliably operating system. As a result, Bubu AG has not only halved its electricity costs but also significantly improved productivity.

Convincing arguments

Nearly twelve months passed between the launch of the project and the commissioning of the new disposal facility.

"We carried out a thorough evaluation and carefully examined all possible options," explains Tom Ballaman.

The concept proposed by Hunkeler Systeme AG presented convincing arguments, and not only in terms of energy efficiency. The clever arrangement of the components also demonstrated well-thought-out system engineering. In addition, thanks to the larger bales, which weigh almost twice as much as those from the old press, the proceeds from the sale of waste paper can be increased, while the costs of handling the bales are significantly reduced.



Bubu AG, pictured is the production building in Mönchaltorf, is one of the few remaining bookbinding companies in Switzerland and is now run by the third generation. The nearly 85-year-old company has always committed itself to Switzerland as a production location and aims to continue facing economic, technological, and societal changes with innovation, joy, and confidence.



"We have always had a good working relationship with Hunkeler Systeme AG. Also, during the new project, we were able to rely on the company's decades of experience and proven engineering expertise."

*Tom Ballaman, Chief Technical Officer
Bubu AG, Mönchaltorf*