

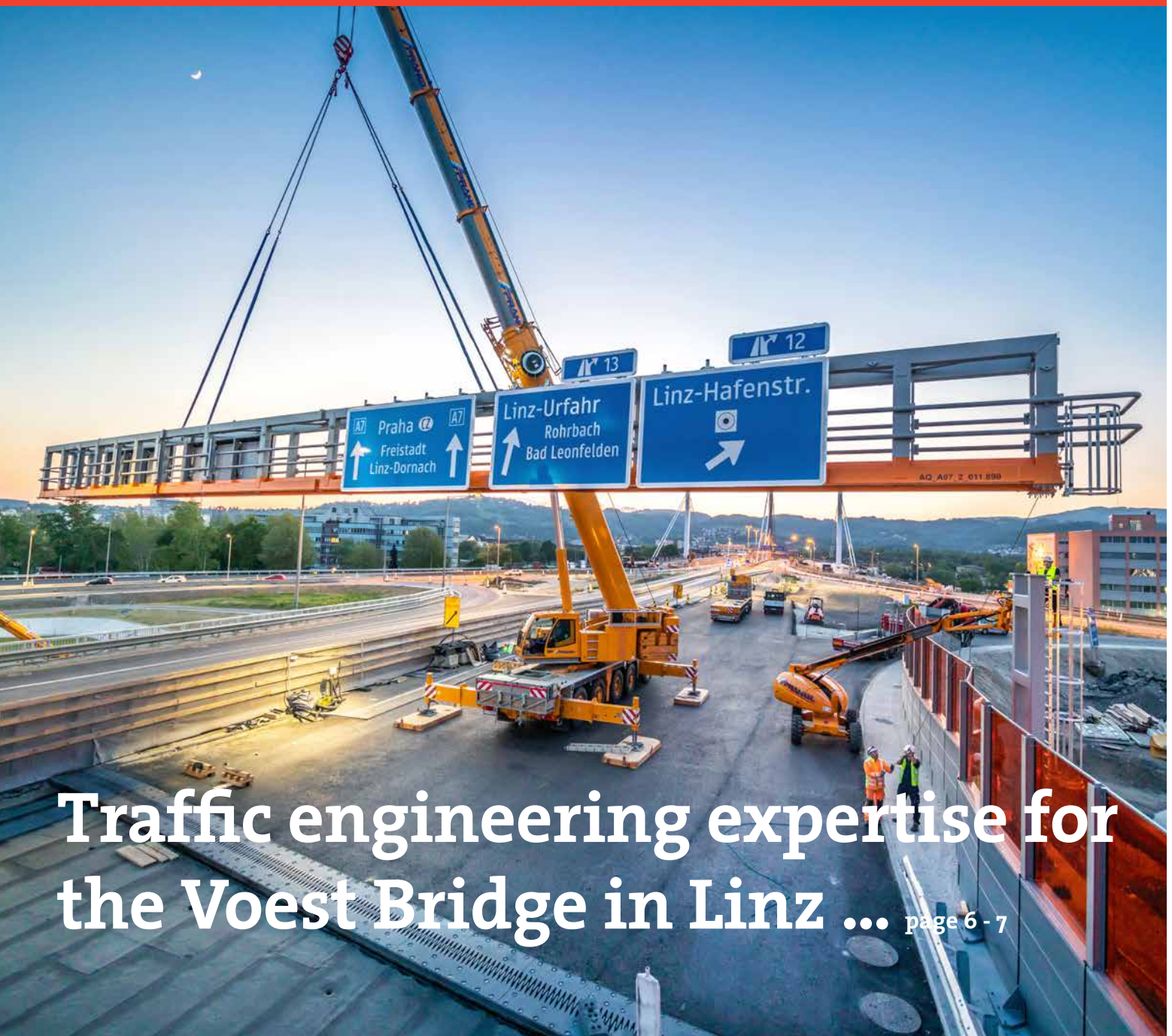
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FORSTER **FF**

aktuell

The magazine for staff and business partners of the Forster Group



Traffic engineering expertise for the Voest Bridge in Linz ... page 6 - 7

Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year!

The year 2020 is fading from our view, and the quiet days just before Christmas offer an opportunity to slow down and pause for a moment, to consider and to look back at what we have achieved together. And it is an excellent moment to once again say thank you: we wish to take this moment to express our great appreciation to all our staff members for their efforts and commitment in the past year – a year that was marked by a pandemic, great challenges and quite a few other difficulties.

We also wish to say thank you to our customers and business partners for the trust they have put in us, the long years of their loyalty and their excellent cooperation.

Same as in previous years, we again forego giving Christmas present and donate the dedicated budget to charities.

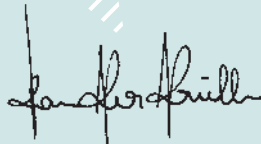
Let us wish you and your family a calm and restful feast, and health, happiness and success for 2021.



Christian Forster



Robert Reichartzeder



Hans-Peter Prüller



Andreas Grader



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WORKS AT ST. PETER/AU

Company grounds enlarged

In the autumn, some 4,000 square metres were added to the company's site at St. Peter/Au. A separate loading and unloading zone completed in November has optimised transport logistics, and the new grounds offer space for the efficient storage of finished products at the works. In the course of the construction works, a dedicated lane for fork lifts was built to access the parking lot and storage space. Informative signs and road markings ensure quick orientation and an orderly works traffic.



The new lorry loading and unloading zone.



NEW LUNCH HOUR

Room for a treat

Since September 2020, we have been offering our staff members the opportunity of ordering lunch, daily from Monday to Thursday. The big menu includes vegetarian and vegan choices. Ordering and charging are simple transactions using special terminals, the PC, tablet or mobile phone. To ensure that everybody can truly enjoy their meals we have furnished rooms with a pleasurable ambience at our locations at Waidhofen/Ybbs and St. Peter/Au.

LOCATIONS AT Waidhofen/Ybbs AND ST. PETER/AU

Better indoor climate for offices

On hot summer days, a new ventilation system delivers comfortable temperatures to the offices at Waidhofen/Ybbs and St. Peter/Au. In spring and autumn, the new system furnishes optimal energy-saving heating.

Covid-19 made installation of the new system in the main office building a particular challenge. Workers from several third-party companies had to work under stringent conditions that included keeping at a safe distance and wearing protective masks. The situation was made slightly easier by the fact that most of the Forster staff were working from home, so that their offices were open for the conversion works.

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..... Editor:

Heinz Lumetsberger

..... Contributors:

Silvia Mairhofer,
Daniel Obermüller,
Fritz Haselsteiner.

..... Photos:

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mumok Vienna:

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A1 NEAR ANSFELDEN

A noise barrier for one of the noisiest motorway sections in Austria



The upright-covering design of the aluminium panels combined with transparent elements grants motorists glimpses of the surrounding and residents some precious quietness.

Dyed plexiglass elements bestow some welcome change.

Next to Ansfelden, between the motorway junctions of Linz and Haid, residential areas full of people wanting peace and quiet are aligned against a motorway section that is one of the busiest in Austria, the passage of innumerable cars and a large number of lorries.


There's a lot of noise on the A1 near Ansfelden: cars, and in particular heavy lorries, barrel down the motorway day and night, right next

to residential areas. Neighbours are truly in need of top-performing noise screens. Construction works to provide them with exactly such a barrier were completed last summer. As a result the quality of living has markedly increased for about 9,000 residents of Ansfelden.

Nearness make for efficacy Construction works involved a section of some 6 kilometres in length on both sides of the motorway as well as on the central reservation. After all,

the greater the proximity of barrier and source of the noise the more effective will the screen be.

Colourful glimpses This section of the motorway features noise-absorbing aluminium panels with covered uprights, combined with transparent segments. The result is a harmonious, design-focused appearance. Dyed plexiglass elements provide a welcome change without blocking the view.

Absorption rather than reflection The noise barriers at the Ansfelden junction constitute a novelty on Austrian motorways. They are FONOCON Silent View* panels, an innovation introduced by Forster. Other than standard elements made of acrylic glass, they do not just reflect the noise but actually absorb it: when the noise hits the inclined plexiglass it is deflected to the noise absorber. 



Contrary to conventional transparent noise panels, FONOCON Silent View* absorbs the noise.

* Please pay attention to the specific note for United Kingdom: In order to avoid any misunderstandings we have named this product in UK „FONOCON type GKE A30-P“. „FONOCON FORSTER NOISE CONTROL“ is a Community Trade Mark registered under Nr 012943619.



The aluminium elements offer a virtually unlimited choice of designs and colourings.

D3 MOTORWAY NEAR ČADCA

Noise barriers that connect

A new motorway is being built in the north of Slovakia – the D3. Once it is completed, it will connect three countries: Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland. The recently finished section between Čadca and Svrčinovec is lined by noise barrier panels made by Forster.


The motorway is a key segment of the E75 which links northern to southern Europe. The new section hugs the hills around Čadca for about six kilometres. A particularity of the section is the 19 concrete girder bridges which emphasise the advantages of aluminium noise barriers: their low weight makes it easy to use them on bridges.

Colourful Noise control elements have become a standing feature alongside roads. Wherever heavy traffic volumes meet up with residential areas, a noise barrier is essential and practical. To beautify its appearance, aluminium elements coated with a wide range of colours are used.



The FONOCON Delta-Top elements add to noise reduction.

The latest technology Apart from appearance, the emphasis is on its engineering. This project called for strict criteria to be met by noise absorption and grounding. As regards the latter, a new method was developed where the barrier serves as a guide wire. FONOCON Delta-Top crowns ensure maximum sound reduction, as they absorb as well as bend the noise, thereby preventing the noise from escaping over the wall – a boon to the neighbours at night.

Thirteen fitters worked hard for six months to install the barrier elements. Once the road is opened in December, Čadca will be relieved of transit lorries, improving both the congestions on its roads as well as the quality of living of its residents. 



TRAFFIC SIGNS FOR THE VOEST BRIDGE IN LINZ

More safety and less congestion



On 28 August 2020, the expanded Voest Bridge was opened as part of the A7 Motorway connecting Linz to the north of Austria. Forster supplied the traffic signs and noise barriers for one of the most important motorway projects in Austria.

Expansion of the Voest Bridge in Linz began in 2018. It was a major construction site that had to be operated in several phases and sections, mostly while under the onslaught of traffic – a planning and logistics challenge for the entire Forster project team.

Have one and get three (bridges)

..... In the first stage, the bridge was provided with two bypasses – additional bridges intended to decongest the daily traffic flows and reduce traffic jams on an important Danube crossing. Users driving into or out of Linz are separated from those who need just to circumvent the city. Currently the through-traffic is routed along the main bridge, the surface of which will be renewed by the autumn of 2023, according to ASFINAG.




For this stage, Forster delivered and installed all the traffic engineering

Noise barrier as a design element



The new Voest Bridge wants to be more than just functional. A design contest was held to decide its appearance, and that included noise-absorbing walls as a distinctive element.

The new walkways and cycling paths across the Danube have been accorded a generous width of three metres and are set at the outside of the two bypass bridges. A transparent screen facing the traffic lanes and made of reflective noise-absorbing panels provides protection against spraying and climbing.

In line with design requirements, Forster supplied two-coloured noise barriers: black side facing the car lanes and white face on the cyclists' side. The white aluminium walls covering the uprights, combined with the transparent elements, harmonise perfectly with the bridge architecture. They have been provided with a special anti-graffiti coat that allows removing sprayers' creations by commercially available detergents without any residue. 



The record-length gantry was installed in two nights.




products, including the truss-type walk-on gantries as well as the gantries and brackets for static traffic signs. The new and modified ramps at the Hafenstrasse and Urfahr exit points have also been provided with standard traffic signs.

Record-breaking achievement

Forster's contract reached record-breaking dimensions not just regarding the walk-on gantries but also the accomplishments of our on-site crew: the longest of the three trussed bridges has a length of fully 72.45 metres. It was constructed in three parts, delivered

to the site and set up in just two nights, with the traffic continuing to flow, except for a short break when the bridge was swung into place.

Forster started work in April 2019 and finished on schedule, in September 2020. 



UPGRADING OF THE GLEINALM AND BOSRUCK TOLLGATES ALONG THE A9

Signposts for the “green lane”

In mid-2020, work was carried out to convert and optimise the two tollgates Gleinalm and Bosruck at the A9 Pyhrn Motorway. Wider passage lanes and barrier-free passage at the digital section toll lane were opened on 15 September.


A new feature at the tollgates is the digital section toll lane which is barrier-free: motorists on this lane can pass the tollgate more quickly, always provided, of course, that they have a prepaid ticket. This “green lane” is specifically marked by a series of signs. Drivers who have a digital or season ticket can select the right lane in good time and pass through the gate without the need to stop. Those who need to buy their ticket can see clearly from afar which lane takes them to the tollbooth that sells tickets.

Forster Verkehrs- und Werbetechnik GmbH was commissioned to supply the signs for the digital

section toll system at the Bosruck tunnel, and was able to match the client’s requirements down to the smallest detail.

Information from afar Several kilometres away, motorists pass the first signs that inform them of the tollgate ahead and the next automated tollbooth that issues tickets. Throughout the next kilometres, information signs point out the free flow lane, and just before the actual tollgate new signs indicate the arrangement of lanes.

The signs used range from static to variable prismatic message signs fitted to brackets, to A-type and walk-on gantries.

Traffic checkpoint In addition to widening the digital section toll lane, tollgate operators put up a traffic checkpoint for each direction. Their LED-type exit signage was similarly supplied by Forster. 



WSZ WIENER NEUSTADT

Orientation as a service

The new recycling centre (WSZ) at the waste management site of Wiener Neustadt was officially opened in October 2020. Wiener Neustädter Stadtwerke und KommunalService GmbH commissioned Forster with delivering and installing the centre's routing system.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the WSZ took place in November 2019. Over the next ten months, the centre was built on 9,500 square metres to the east of the existing site. It consists of a roofed platform accessed through two ramps and three staircases. The platform accommodates six large containers for filling, among others with paper, plastics, scrap iron and electric devices. Five small containers are placed on the original level.

Clear layout Already on entering the new WSZ the emphasis placed by the city fathers on service is clearly noticeable. Garbage separation is to be made as easy as possible. But since the site is large and no-staff operation is possible, it is necessary to have an intelligent sign system. Forster was once again



The large signs are fitted to brackets and T-cantilevers.

able to prove itself as a competent partner for municipal services. In addition to the top-quality signs, Forster supplied the requisite fittings and attachments.

Waste separation made easy Directional, navigational and information signs point visitors in the right direction and facilitate garbage disposal. The collection points are quickly found thanks to the colour-coded routing system



The layout and site rules board provides a quick overview of the site.



The collection points are marked by colour-coded signs.

which ensures that all waste is put into its proper bin. Traffic signs on the site were also supplied by Forster in accordance with the Road Signs Ordinance. 🚦



Notice calling for more consideration of others – the trails are used by mountain bikers and hikers.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TREKKING ROUTES IN THE YBBS VALLEY ALPS

Bike-focused

The Mostviertel in the south-west of Lower Austria is an ideal place for cyclists and mountain bikers who want to keep fit but are still on the lookout for nature wonders. Holidaymakers in particular appreciate the detailed signage of their routes.

Biking is not just a sport. Treading a bike, you can experience the landscape from up close, quicker than on foot; yet you can stop any time and get a first-hand glimpse of particularly beautiful views. And there are plenty of worthwhile vistas in the Mostviertel, a land of many contrasting features, just as exciting as the extensive network of routes: simple, family-friendly trekking tours criss-cross the undulating foothills of the European Alps, while MTM tours on Alpine terrain can get aficionados quickly to the limits of their endurance.

Signs with a long service life

Forster has fitted some of these signs with almost 3,000 signs to ensure that visitors will find their way more easily. The signs also make for a uniform appearance, visible for many years because the system used will be available for many years to come.



The signs are flat panels with welding bolts on the back that allow fitting the panel to a tubular upright with a matching clip without damaging the reflecting film.

Through the nature reserve and around the Ötscher

Forster made the signs for routes 23 to 28: Steingrabenkreuz tour, nature reserve tour, Bärenlacken tour, Nestelberg tour, Lunz tour and the trekking route around the Ötscher, a prominent peak in Lower Austria. Once the weather permits, bikers can once again start out, with clear signs to guide them. 📍



For those who are curious about the delights of the Mostviertel, pertinent information on the routes can be found at www.mostviertel.at/mountainbike

ROUTING AND GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR THE AMSTETTEN TOWN HALL

A hands-on service for citizens

This past year the town of Amstetten set itself the task of fully renovating its old town hall. The work included new signage for indoors and outside.

Already at the approach to the town hall, new signposts and information panels point visitors in the right direction. The elegant signposts made of aluminium, imprinted with digital letters, guide their first steps. A layout plan and colour coding with arrows and storey listings help them find their way inside.

Quick to update Inside, high-quality acrylic glass signs provide further assistance: The two-layered storey signs are dis-



The map panel with a layout plan and directions is very user-friendly.



tance-mounted. For the door signs, the municipal authorities opted for the Combiflex Plana signage system. Its great advantage is that the lettering can be quickly exchanged by replacing the paper insert. The signs, made of premium satin-finished film on glass, indicate the storey number to further help visitors along.



Inside, several labelling systems were harmoniously combined.

A good outside view The new courtyard-facing façade looks appealing and floods the building with natural light. The glass front is covered by a perforated film in a customer-defined design that allows an almost unrestricted view from inside into the outside world.



SVS VIENNA

The trendsetter among social insurance institutions



On 1 January 2020, a new social insurance institute came into being which covers all self-employed individuals in Austria – a merger of the institute for the commercially self-employed (SVA) and the institute for farmers (SVB). Its main office was thoroughly renovated and given a thoughtful sign system by Forster.

In addition to providing the health insurance services available in all nine Austrian states, the main office in Vienna also undertakes the control and management responsibilities of the institute. The new signage comprises all three segments of the new main office: customer centre, health centre for the self-employed and offices and conference rooms for the administration.

Crisp waymarks The lower floors of the building house the customer centre as well as the health centre where the self-employed are offered treatments such as occupational therapy, dietology and physiotherapy. Right at the entrance, glass doors and glass surfaces are marked with information, as a screen or for their safe use as stipulated in Austrian Standard B1600 for building without barriers.



The offices are fitted with door signs and crash screen.

Distinctive signposts Everywhere, the highly visible signs in a consistent look help visitors to quickly find their way around. The large-sized map panels and signposts are made of non-glare acrylic glass and labelled from the back. The wall spacers made of stainless steel make for a particularly high-class appearance. The cubicles in the customer centre are mostly marked with plotted film attached by projecting signs at the doors. These are visible from afar and contribute to the aesthetic



Large map panels help visitors get around.



The escape and rescue plans can be quickly updated with the Combiflex Mero sign system.

ambience thanks to their hidden attachment.

Modern offices quietly marked

•••• The top levels of the building accommodate the offices and conference rooms of its internal administration. Its modern, well-lit rooms are filled with glass surfaces and marked with Combiflex Mero door signs in silver. This system is also excellently suited for internal bulletin boards that display escape

routes and evacuation plans.

Combiflex Mero impresses by its delicate, laid-back structure and uncluttered lines. The very narrow border made of aluminium looks neutral and low-key; the sign itself can be quickly updated by a paper insert.

The many glass panels in the offices are similarly provided with crash protection marks, which double as screens in the staff lounges.



Experts with know-how:

When it comes to the production and installation of sign systems, plenty of know-how and flexibility is called for. Years of experience and a wide range of options for metals, synthetic materials and signage have turned Forster into a competent partner for all things to do with signs.



The entrance area to the health centre is clearly marked.



The floor display for NeuroSocks alerts customers at the point of sale.

Heavy load no problem: the robust display for window cleaning



POS DISPLAYS

Sustainability for the fast-paced advert industry

Displays by Forster, made entirely in Austria, excite attention at the point of sale. Thanks to their sophisticated design they are an investment that pays generously over the years. Two examples.

What is that makes Forster displays sustainable? It is mostly the fact that they can be reused. They are robust in their make and their sides and crowners can be simply replaced. In this way, the display adapts to the product, the season or a new logo. It is a highly effective eye-catcher for many years that keeps renewing its appearance –

just what the fast-moving advertising industry needs.

Floor display for NeuroSocks A recent example is the high-quality display for NeuroSocks, created by Forster from metal and plastic and delivered as an edition of 1000 pieces. The floor display is over two metres high so that its design had to make sure that it would be tilt- and slip-proof. Its stable base consists of a powder-coated plate made of 8-mm sheet steel. The robust upright with five hook rails accommodates 40 blister hooks that accentuate the range of products. The display gets its versatility through

the replaceable side panels and header made of three-millimetre recycled plastic. The elements were directly imprinted, profile-cut and heat-formed.

The Forster full-service package covered design, construction and production.

Display for car window cleaners

..... The floor display for Porsche Media & Creative works its magic where the decision to buy is made: at the point of sale. It consists of a massive modular metal structure. Its eye-catching feature is the side uprights, tilting backwards and powder-coated in signal white. They hold the four adjustable product trays. Price rails and a crowner combine to make the display an individual and versatile attention-getter in the show rooms. **FF**

Tip: For more details on sustainability go to pages 18 – 19 in this issue.

EXHIBITION ADVERTISING

Artistic impressions

Publicity for exhibitions, trade fairs and similar events should be customised and, if possible, original. We are proud to present to you two highly different but equally remarkable projects:

Walking on a flower carpet

In a repeat of the previous year's summer show, a sign applied to the pavement and imprinted by Forster decorated the courtyard of the Museum of Modern Art in Vienna, giving passers-by an experience of art. This year, the motifs used were Andy Warhol's "Flowers".

To celebrate "Misfitting Together", a show that opened on 1 July 2020, a flower carpet was applied to the courtyard of the Museum of Modern Art Ludwig Foundation in Vienna. Almost 250 square metres

of pavement film spread the show's motto into the outer confines of the Museum right into the main courtyard of the Museum Quarter. A floor film of this size placed in a public space needs to be absolutely skid-proof in order to ensure the safety of passers-by. And it must withstand the stress caused by the Museum's numerous visitors as well as the rigours of the weather. Forster imprinted the film for Ambient Art Werbe GmbH.




Visitors passing the Vienna Museum of Modern Art walk on a carpet of flowers copied from Andy Warhol's "Flowers" motifs.

Moving design

At the DomQuartier in Salzburg, "Music Everywhere" illuminates the glorious musical tradition of Salzburg. Forster supplied the digital prints and lenticular panels to Studio Kudlich, designers of the exhibition, for their tour of musical exploration.

The Prince-Archbishops of Salzburg were famous for celebrating sumptuous feasts. Many displays and floor totems, printed on black forex of a thickness of 5 mm, bring those back to life – exactly where they were held: in the state rooms of the Residence and Cathedral precinct.

The sensitive and congruous atmosphere derives from the display panels covered with adhesive film. They draw visitors' attention, especially when they are fitted with a lenticular image which changes on walking past them. There are four of them and their size is extraordinary: at a height of up to 2,350 mm, the figures are larger than life in all respects. 



A glimpse of the "Music Everywhere" exhibition at the DomQuartier Salzburg.



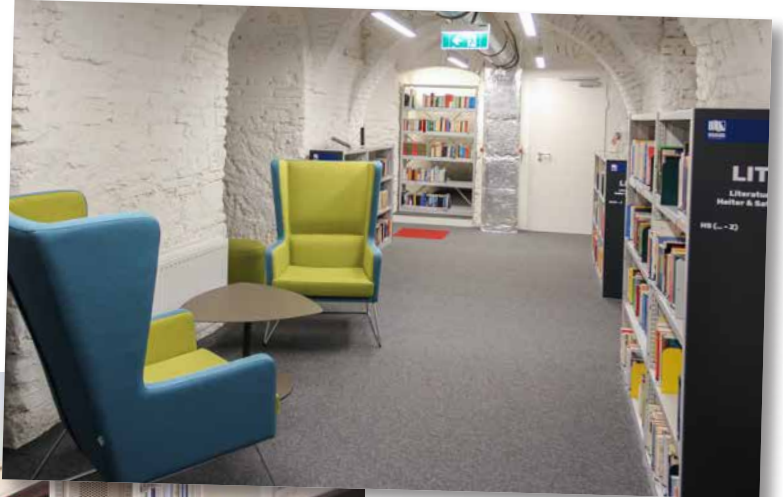
Large-sized formats that move: the larger-than-life lenticular images change their appearance when visitors walk past.

TRENDSETTING PROJECT IN WIENER NEUSTADT

New library in an old monastery

A city demonstrates how to combine science and public access in one and the same library. It was outfitted entirely by Forster.

Since the autumn of 2019, the Municipal Library of Wiener Neustadt has been part of the new City Campus of the Wiener Neustadt University of Applied Sciences, which welcomes city residents



The shelves in the kids' corner snuggle against the round walls.




Library shelves with a moveable base can be pushed to the side to make room for events.

and students to sit side by side in the reading room. The "Library in the Centre" has been installed in a former monastery of the White Friars and provided with shelves by Forster.

Flexible and handsome Fitting a library into ancient basement vaults was quite a challenge that called for an extraordinarily flexible shelving system. After all, the shelves need not just to ensure order and neatness – they are a key feature of the interior's layout. The goal thus was to find an aesthetically pleasing combination of beauty and functionality, in order to create a harmonious atmosphere for the whole location. One example of this endeavour is the children's corner which

was designed with a great love of detail. Its bookshelves fit smoothly against the roundness of the wall and hold books as well as games and audio books. The fiction section, on the other hand, required a completely different approach to flexibility. The stationary shelves are provided with moveable base so that they can be pushed aside to make room for public events.

Accommodating Thanks to their fully matching modules and a wide range of accessories, FOREG® shelving systems will always come up with the perfect solution. The book trays are fitted to end panels coated in anthracite grey, thereby guaranteeing the full library feeling. Shelves with magazine bins make sure that newspapers are never out of sight of their prospective users. A shelf of drawers makes for order and method among the numerous audio books and CDs. The various components can be combined at will and retrofitted. As a result, shelves can be adjusted to changing requirements years after they were first fitted. 



The crank drive ensures that even heavy loads can be moved effortlessly.

ETH LIBRARY IN ZURICH

Shelving for precious works

Original scripts from Copernicus to Einstein: the priceless stocks of the Zurich library are accommodated in new shelving made by Forster.


The library of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich houses more than 9 million analogue items, many of them extremely valuable. Among its treasures are the original scripts by Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton, as well as scripts and letters by Albert Einstein, who taught at this university. Switzerland's largest public library for science and technology is one of our oldest customers. Recently, the archive shelves in the main building, which had been getting slightly past their prime, were replaced by new FOREG® library shelves.

Optimally matched to the space Stocks are voluminous, space is scarce – a predicament for which we have an ideal solution: the new mobile FOREG® 2000 shelving system. It is accessible when wanted and closed when necessary. The bays can be easily

moved aside so that only one aisle remains open, thus adjusting exactly to the reader's needs.

Robust and durable The system is fitted with open frames and perforated end panels to ensure that the stocks are well aired. To ensure a long service life, the shelves are galvanised and finished with a colourless duplex coating.

The high durability of Forster stacks is demonstrated by the shelves at the ETH Material Hub (MATHUB) which were delivered years ago and which hold more than 2000 specimens of loam, glass, cement and bitumen, some of them extremely heavy.

Removal included The service provided by Forster included the dismantling and disposal of the previous system. Once the first new shelf had been put in place, the books from the next rack about to be dismantled were shifted, until the new system was fully installed. 



Heights are variable so that the shelves can be matched to the room height, thereby ensuring maximum space utilisation.



The shelves of the ETH Material Hub hold some heavy specimens.

FORSTER AND SUSTAINABILITY

Joining forces to organise the future

For us, sustainability is not just a buzzword – at the Forster Group it has been a daily practised principle for many years. In February 2020, we were one of the first companies in Austria to be certified under ONR 192500 (guidance on corporate social responsibility).

As a family-managed medium-sized enterprise with some 700 staff we accord special importance to socially aware, sustainable and responsible operations. As a consequence, we decided in early 2019 to expand our certified integrated management system (IMS) for quality (ISO 9001), environment (ISO 14001) and health and safety at work (ISO 45001) by the addition of a sustainability management system: it complies with ONR 192500 and is based on ISO 26000 (Guidance on Corporate Social Responsibility).

Responsibility for humankind and environment The system commits us to complying with the UN Global Compact Principles (see www.unglobalcompact.org) and supporting the United Nations' sustainable development goals (see sustainabledevelopment.un.org). The two guidelines ISO 26000 and ONR 192500 stipulate criteria in connection with sus-

tainable management, sustainable product portfolio, inclusion of staff and other stakeholders, health and safety at work and the environment.

Many of these criteria have been covered by our integrated management system for years. Within the scope of our environmental management, we continuously improve the ecological footprint of our company, especially with regard to sustainable products, energy input, material input, emissions and emergency preparedness (to prevent environmental damage).

Long-lived and recyclable We are particularly committed to

developing and producing sustainable products. Our concern is to cut down as much as possible on the exploitation of resources in our materials and energy use, and we monitor sustainability across the entire life cycle of a product. This naturally includes its recyclability: our products are mostly made of steel and aluminium and both materials can be fully recycled.



Already at the start of 2020, we were one of the first Austrian companies to introduce a sustainability management system in line with ONR 192500 and based on ISO 26000 (guidance on corporate social responsibility).



We also award special attention to the expected service life of our products: their guaranteed long-term use means that they have a long useful life, which in turn means going easy on resources.

Among our most sustainable products are noise barriers made of aluminium, shelving systems made of galvanised sheet steel, dynamic traffic signs fitted with LEDs and PVC-free film.

Carbon footprint always at the back of our minds Accounting for all phases of the value-adding process (delivery of materials, packaging, production, transport, installation, intermediate storage, etc.) and risk factors until the product is in active use, we have substantially reduced our carbon footprint.

Forster has set up several programmes to reduce energy input and avoid waste and rejects in production. In this way, the company

has been able to reduce its carbon footprint both in absolute terms and as a proportion of its sales. In 2019, Forster had an energy audit pursuant to the Austrian Energy Efficiency Act carried out at St. Peter/Au and Waidhofen/Ybbs. With Forster changing to CO₂-free electricity in early 2020, its carbon footprint was curtailed even more.

Inward and outward integrity

Within the scope of Corporate Social Responsibility, our Group commits to comply with the ethic principles of CSR, maintain sustainable operations, undertake its social responsibilities and observe the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. They involve principles in the fields of human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and anti-corruption, all of which are incorporated in the Code of Conduct of our Group. This stipulates the values, principles and procedures that deter-

mine the Group's entrepreneurial activities. The object is compliance with ethic standards and creation of a working environment that fosters integrity, respect and fair behaviour. All staff and management members of the Forster Group are governed by the rules of this Code of Conduct.

The economic, ecological and social performance of the Forster Group is documented in the first sustainability report (www.forster.at/sustainability). Our sustainability management system was certified by an accredited certification body in early 2020. 





TOOLMAKING

The latest addition: a new high-tech CNC milling machine

The in-house toolmakers provide an essential service for the producing departments within the Forster Group. Fitting them with state-of-the-art machinery is indispensable for the company's success.

Forster's toolmakers boast of a new universal bed-type milling machine made by Kiheung, an investment that makes the department fit for the future.

The compact universal bed-type milling machine has a high chip volume, works with great geometric precision and is provided with the latest CNC system. The 5-axis mill allows cutting the most complex and even large-sized shapes. The ergonomic operator's panel provides for height adjustment and swivelling in almost every work position. 📺

Highlights of the new milling machine:

- Automated universal milling head (for automatic positioning)
- Automated tool changing with head changer station for 24 tools
- High-performance cooling system

ADVERTISING ENGINEERING

Compact all-rounder

Our advertising specialists similarly insist on keeping up to date and invest generously in their tools. Our new flat-bed press is a full-scale all-rounder.

Featuring the CMYK standard colours and two light colours, the new digital printing machine is ready for six-colour printing. It handles high visual resolution up to 2,160 dpi and is not fazed by white-printing and accentual paints. All customary



materials, such as acrylic, aluminium compounds, aluminium, polyester, polycarbonate, polystyrene, (rigid-foam) PVC and flexible-foam boards, can be imprinted in top quality and in one piece of up to 4 metres in length and 2.5 metres in width. The press also prints optical 3D effects on transparent materi-

als. Accentual paints ranging from matte to high-gloss add a particular sheen and texture that give the product its special look. And as a major consideration, the new press is thrifty in its consumption of energy as well as environmentally friendly. 📺

News from Forster Group staff

ANNIVERSARIES

Waidhofen/Ybbs:

45 YEARS

Friedrich Auer

40 YEARS

Heinz Becksteiner

Johann Furtner

Herbert Schmatz

Herbert Tatzreiter

35 YEARS

Walter Berger

Franz Merkingner

Oliver Setnicka

Wolfgang Simon

30 YEARS

Yusuf Bozkurt

Michaela Bramreiter

Gerhard Döcker

Dorothea Kerschbaumsteiner

Melanie Köhler

Renate Penesic

Ruud Rijkens

Karl Schoisswohl

25 YEARS

Stefan Beck

Karl Brunenthaler

Angela Diewald

Wolfgang Dobersberger

Josef Grabner

Wolfgang Grosser

Dorothea Hofmayer

Gerhard Schmutzer

Hans-Peter Schnabler

Eva Schneckenleitner

Thomas Spacil

Sonja Stockinger

20 YEARS

Hamdija Avdicevic

Rodica Coza

Merita Dobersberger

Mario Fellner

Manuela Grasberger

Bernhard Haidler

Barbara Hopf

Eva Kleinlehner

Reinhard Krammer

Silke Michelak

Osman Omerovic

Dominko Pilic

Christian Rohrhofer

Sabine Schmid

Franz Schwingenschlögl

Monika Seyerlehner

Martin Streisselberger

Mario Weichselbaum

15 YEARS

Eva Fadinger

Roswitha Faunie

Patrick Freudenschuß

Thomas Hofer

Sabrina Matzenberger

Sead Pasalic

Martin Weiss

10 YEARS

Wolfgang Dürauer

Tobias Gröbl

Regina Grübler

David Heigl

Leopold Hinteramkogler

Roland Küchel

Werner Weninger

St. Peter/Au:

40 YEARS

Adelheid Schoberberger

35 YEARS

Maria Bürscher

Josef Freundl

Josef Schoberberger

Leopold Schoberberger

Karl Strasser

Günther Wenzel

30 YEARS

Anita Geyerlechner

Kamal Gill

Jürgen Gratzer

Hasan Günes

Hermann Labner

Margarete Leichtfried

Sefer Sabanci

Haydar Türkmen

Klaus Weis

25 YEARS

Andrea Schoberberger

20 YEARS

Katja Fehringer

Doris Krendl

Martina Seyerlehner

15 YEARS

Isabella Donner

Sabine Edermayer

Christine Feiel

Christine Haselmayr

Helga Haselmayr

Johann Hofer

Martina Hofer

Roland Hofer

Daniela Kern

Josefa Knoll

Bernhard Mayrhofer

10 YEARS

Matthias Halmich

Colberg & Forster:

25 YEARS

Thomas Bluhm

15 YEARS

Thomas Zeh

10 YEARS

Alexander Colberg

The management wants to express to all celebrants its gratitude and appreciation for their long years of loyalty to the company and looks forward to continuing our excellent cooperation.

COMPANY ANNIVERSARIES 45 and 40 Years at Forster:



45 YEARS

Friedrich Auer



40 YEARS

Heinz Becksteiner



40 YEARS

Johann Furtner



40 YEARS

Adelheid Schoberberger



40 YEARS

Herbert Tatzreiter



40 YEARS

Herbert Schmatz

...❖ OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

Rene Reikersdorfer (twin apprenticeship) passed his apprenticeship completion exam as a draftsman with *good success* and his apprenticeship completion exam as a metal fitter with the main module of mechanical engineering.

Benedikt Forster (metal fitter, main module of mechanical engineering) completed the third form with *excellent success* and **Cristian Agafitei** (metal fitter, main module of mechanical engineering) completed the third form with *good success*.

Tobias Jagersberger (metal fitter, main module of mechanical engineering) completed the first form with *good success*.

Kerstin Harreiter and **Maximilian Zanitti-Brunello** (both printers, priority on screen-printing) completed the third form with *excellent success*.

Christoph Lumplecker and **Jasmin Rettensteiner** (both printers, priority on screen-printing) completed the second form with *excellent success*.

Marc Härtinger (trainee industrial manager) completed the second form with *good success*.

Timo Gabriel Plattner (automotive engineer for passenger cars and car bodies) completed the second form with *excellent success*.

Our congratulations on their excellent performance and our best wishes for their further career!

...❖ RETIREMENT

Waidhofen/Ybbs:

Eduard Katzensteiner
Walter Schmitsberger
Walter Bergmann
Johann Furtner
Petra Hummelsberger
Dominko Pilic

St. Peter/Au:

Agnes Kaineder
Brigitte Ritt

Johann Raidl
Stefanie Schäffer

PART-TIME SCHEME FOR OLDER WORKERS – LEISURE PHASE

Waidhofen/Ybbs:

Barbara Hopf
Silvia Ressel
Ruud Rijkes
Rudolf Hackl
Monika Frühwirth
Andreas Moro

St. Peter/Au:

Christine Gartlehner
Alois Geiblinger
Klaus Weis

The management wants to express its gratitude and appreciation for their long years of loyalty to the company and extends its best wishes for their new life phase!

ENJOYING THEIR WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT:



Ing. Eduard Katzensteiner

In mid-2020, Eduard Katzensteiner took his well-earned leave from Forster. He had joined the company in 1987, entering the design and engineering department at the Waidhofen/Ybbs location. Shortly after he changed to the engineering department of the in-house tooling section at Oberland. In 1998, the enthusiastic huntsman became manager of the Waidhofen/Ybbs works and was in charge of gantry production.



Walter Bergmann

Walter Bergmann retired in September 2020. In 1988, he had joined what was then the relatively new computer department at Forster, quickly rising to its top. His introduction of the ERP software SIGMA planted Forster solidly and irrevocably in the computer age. Moreover, it was under his management spell that Forster established computer-aided materials management systems and production planning.



Johann Furtner

After more than 40 years with Forster, Johann Furtner ceased his active employment with the company. Within the Group he was in charge of a diversity of responsibilities in facility management and building services. There was no new construction or conversion of Forster buildings that did not involve Johann Furtner. The new building constructed at Waidhofen/Ybbs in 1980 certainly was the great challenge of his career.

A new phase in life ...

Not yet officially retired but already transitioned to the active leisure phase: this year numerous staff members became entitled to the transition after long years of working for the Forster Group. The Forster Family and management want to express their gratitude and appreciation for their long years of loyalty to the company and extend their best wishes for their new life phase.



DI Ruud Rijkens

Ruud Rijkens started as an engineer in 1990, before changing to the new quality management department. Already in 1995 he was co-responsible for ISO 9001 certification of the three Forster companies,

and he helped set up our certified integrated management system for quality (ISO 9001), environment (ISO 14001) and safety at work (ISO 45001). He also undertook to optimise the shipping and fleet management. He frequently handled controlling tasks and was the preferred contact for our customers within the toll sticker production project team.

Ing. Klaus Weis

Klaus Weis came to Forster in 1990, starting out his career in the works scheduling department at the plant of St. Peter/Au. Thanks to his highly detailed knowledge of all production steps at Forster he quickly became operations manager at St. Peter/Au. Soon he rose to the position of works manager at the plant, and in 2006 he was given full power of attorney to act on behalf of the company. Specialised competence and economic use of the means of production were the hallmarks of all his activities as a work manager.



Ing. Andreas Moro

Andreas Moro joined the company in 1981, starting out in its toolmaking department before changing over to the engineering department. There he rapidly became an indispensable and highly appreciated member of the department who contributed his know-how to all engineering issues. In 1995 he became manager of product development, and in 2003 he was placed in the position of prokura holder authorised to act for Forster Industrietechnik GmbH with regard to product development and toolmaking.



Ing. Rudolf Hackl

The progress and development of Forster's shelving systems division is inseparably entwined with Rudolf Hackl. He came to the company in 1989 as head of sales of shelving systems and was quickly made a prokura holder. In 2003 he became the manager of Forster Metallbau Gesellschaft m.b.H., entrusted with the division of shelving systems and vendor parts. His spell included milestone projects such as the Austrian National Library, the British Library and the St. Petersburg State Archives. In a similar vein, his was the energy behind the internationalisation drive of the shelving systems division, in the course of which Forster set up subsidiaries in Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom. Until he left the company, Rudolf Hackl was in charge of Arbitec-Forster for Germany.

Expert competence, market knowledge and great personal commitment characterised his professional work and his activities as manager. Whether it was large international projects or innovations and improvements in the shelving systems – Rudolf Hackl was always involved in a leading capacity.



Forster Verkehrs- und Werbetechnik GmbH
Forster Metallbau Gesellschaft m. b. H.
Forster Industrietechnik GmbH
Weyrer Strasse 135
A-3340 Waidhofen/Ybbs
Telephone + 43 74 42/501-0
E-mail forster@forster.at
www.forster.at

