



*When the new Mühlböck belt dryer was installed, Peter Seppel's limited space was optimally utilised*

# Space-saving drying

## Belt dryer makes optimal use of the given space

Mühlböck installed an additional belt dryer at Peter Seppel with the proverbial shoe horn. In addition to space, this project was also about keeping an eye on time and above all on sound. These are all requirements that could be met thanks to many years of experience and good cooperation.

Founded 90 years ago, the Peter Seppel company has been intensively involved in the processing of residual materials for several decades. In addition to waste management and the production of cellulose insulation materials from daily newspapers, Seppel is one of the oldest and largest pellet producers in the country. Already in 1998 the first do-it-yourself wood pellet press was put into operation – by now the production capacity of the two locations Feistritz an der Drau and Sachsenburg is almost 140.000 t/y.

The impulse for the most recent expansion came from the increased log cutting by the immediate neighbour and most important raw material supplier Hasslacher Norica Timber. Since the commissioning of the pelleting plant in 2003, the two Carinthian family businesses have maintained close relationships, which Managing Director Peter Seppel describes as "cooperation with handshake quality". In addition to sawdust and wood shavings, Hasslacher also supplies its neighbour with thermal energy.

## Quiet expansion

With the capacities gained in pelletisation, the bottleneck in production shifted towards drying, especially in the winter months, which is why Seppel opted for an additional belt dryer. Specifically, the managing director ordered a classic type installation from Mühlböck Trocknungstechnik, Eberschwang. "The tip to take a closer look at the Mühlböck solutions came from another satisfied customer. Mühlböck quickly convinced us with a good product, a competent team and extensive services," recalls the managing director. Specifically, Seppel appreciates Mühlböck's active support and direct communication with the authorities, sound engineers and programmers involved.

Mühlböck implemented numerous noise protection measures, such as a sound-insulated dryer housing or silencer at the air intake duct and at the 30 m high chimney, in order to meet the requirements of the trade

regulations with regard to noise protection. After completion, these measures ensured problem-free acceptance.

A further challenge of this project was the constricted space of the hall. Only a few square metres were available between the original raw material feed, the existing dryer and three embedded transformers, which Mühlböck optimally used: Instead of the usual bandwidths, the Upper Austrian company used components in special sizes, adapted to the local conditions. In addition, the ventilation fans are located on only one side of the system. "Despite this structural limitation, we succeeded in distributing the air homogeneously and achieving uniform drying," reports Gerald Kreuzhuber, responsible for sales at Mühlböck.

## Efficient pre-drying

The project was implemented at the beginning of 2019 without interrupting ongoing production. Seppel uses the new dryer primarily for pre-drying the incoming shavings – depending on requirements, it transfers the material to the existing installation, which extracts the remaining water from the shavings. Theoretically, the new system can also bring the shavings to the desired final moisture content.



**Satisfied project partners:** Peter Seppel (left) and Gerald Kreuzhuber of Mühlböck