



German transport and palletising provider W+D Langhammer was established as an engineering company by Heinrich Langhammer in 1971. Its initial focus was creating display pallets for the tissue business, with Heinrich dedicated to building the business through hard work and constant development. By listening to his customers and playing close attention to how the market was changing, the long-term Langhammer philosophy of 'We'll do it!' saw the company expand into conveyor technology.

Managing director Enrico Pes explained how Heinrich Langhammer's dedication has allowed the company to achieve its current level of success. "Mr Langhammer started his well-earned retirement in 2008 and, though many things have changed since he founded the company in 1971, one thing remains the same today: our commitment to provide modular, trail-blazing packaging solutions – transport and palletising solutions in particular – for industries as diverse as tissue, paper, food or the chemical and healthcare sectors."

Constant growth

W+D Langhammer has experienced gradual yet constant growth in the development of precision technology for the design and manufacture of end-of-line systems for transport and palletising. The company employs

over 170 people across its two state-of-the-art German production sites in Eisenberg and Freiberg, which are consistently working at full capacity. With the impact of the global recession, this is a particular achievement. Mr Pes explained, "We are fortunate that we are able to record a high degree of capacity utilisation. We enjoyed double digit growth in 2009 and we expect to expand our Freiberg plant in 2010."

The continued positivity at Langhammer has been largely characterised by its determination to remain competitive, with the company's management focused on broadening its business vision by including technology-driven transport and palletising solutions.

Mr Pes commented on Langhammer's wide portfolio, "We can palletise and transport just about any product as long as it's packaged. In principle, anything goes, except for highly explosive gases. As well our traditional market of paper and tissue products, we also transport and palletise packaged synthetic granules, bottled beverages, baking mixtures, tea bags and facial creams, to name but a few."

Core characteristics

Reliability, high quality standards and easy system maintenance are the main characteristics of Langhammer products. The company integrates its clients' converting machines and connects them to modules >

OPEN MINDED PALLETISING SOLUTIONS

Transport and palletising expert W+D Langhammer is committed to playing to its strengths in order to add value for its customers across a wide range of industries. Emma-Jane Batey spoke to managing director Enrico Pes to learn more about how this works in practice.





from its own flexible building block system. Langhammer does not build individual machines, but rather creates entire units for its customers, delivering a no-nonsense, competent service that ensures the entire system is working at its optimal capabilities.

Langhammer understands that its strength lies in the flexibility and adaptability of its modular systems. Mr Pes said, "The combination of our modules allows us to satisfy a broad spectrum of customer requirements, which is why we are essentially non-sector specific. Around 95 per cent of our equipment consists of modular solutions and five per cent are assembly groups developed specifically for certain customers."

A team of expert technicians and a commitment to R&D means that Langhammer is able to satisfy its customers' production demands quickly and effectively. The company understands the transport and palletising implications in a wide range of market sectors as it has expanded cautiously, enabling its expertise to stay at the high level Heinrich Langhammer offered right from the start. It is this philosophy that guarantees customers a system that works.

Fresh products

Langhammer regularly introduces innovative products to its portfolio. Recent additions include the PA82 XXL Palletiser, which incorporates the company's characteristic high flexibility with a new range of consumer possibilities. The PA82 is able to handle a wide

range of pallet formats, from 600 x 600mm to 1400 x 1400mm, with a weight of up to 1500kg, with format changes no longer necessary. Developed for worldwide use, the PA82 can be used for transport in both length and crosswise direction. Langhammer has also launched a cost effective four servo-axis palletiser, the Linear Robot LR01, which offers a compact design and easy to operate.

In order to maximise the market potential of new products, Langhammer is a regular participant at Europe's leading packaging trade exhibitions. As well as presenting its own Open House fair in connection with the Miac Tissue Show in Italy, Langhammer is soon to attend FachPack, where it is looking forward to make new contacts with potential customers, discuss future projects with existing customers and gain an even greater understanding of current market trends.

With Langhammer part of Winkler+Dünnebier AG, a Körber Group Paper Division company, since 2008, it is clear that its future will continue to be strong and positive as it has the strength of its history standing on the shoulders of a solid international group. Mr Pes concluded: "We have cooperations with the international contacts of other Körber companies and a working method that enhances technological interaction and a respected product range that is solutions-focused. Tomorrow is determined by the choices made today. We believe we must always be one step ahead and open to new ideas and impulses. This is why we can look forward to a promising future." □

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