

The REMONDIS Group magazine

# REMONDIS AKTUELL

remondis.com

## Markets off balance?

How municipal monopolies are impeding fair competition

REMONDIS  
AKTUELL

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### Amended Commercial Waste Ordinance

All commercial firms in Germany must adapt their businesses to new recycling rules – REMONDIS is providing a helping hand

### Packaging Law

A compromise for politicians, the recycling sector & the packaging industry – higher recycling rates will strengthen the sector

### REMONDIS Recycling GmbH & Co. KG

RHENUS has transferred all its glass, plastics, deposit return scheme and old textile services to REMONDIS with immediate effect

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## REMONDIS honoured once again by KlimaExpo.NRW

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Flag

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Max Köttgen, REMONDIS Board Member

**Dear Readers!**

Equal opportunities are a tricky subject. It goes without saying, of course, that we believe all children should have the same opportunities to give them a fair start in life – no matter where they may be born. Indeed, we would consider it to be highly unfair if it weren't the case. When it comes to equal opportunities in the waste management industry, however, Germany has created a seriously unfair competitive situation that is not only inefficient but also a financial burden for taxpayers and the private sector. The issue here is value added tax (VAT). Municipal companies are exempt from charging VAT and so have a price advantage of up to 19% over their private sector competitors. Whilst privately run firms are subject to VAT laws, municipal businesses are not – even though they provide exactly the same service. The results: privately owned companies are being pushed out of the market by state-owned monopolies, private sector jobs are being put at risk, revenue from business tax and VAT is falling, which, in the end, impacts negatively on local authorities. A recent legal report published by Professor Roman Seer from the Institute for Tax Law and Tax Procedure Law at the Ruhr University in Bochum has revealed that this system is in breach of the law – with consumers paying a heavy price.

Rhenus Recycling has now become REMONDIS Recycling – an excellent addition to REMONDIS' portfolio. All glass, plastics and textile recycling activities are now in the hands of the recycling specialists REMONDIS. Thanks to this move, the company's customers will benefit from an even bigger and more closely knit network of recycling locations. The deposit return system for managing the return of drinks bottles

and cans is also part of this portfolio and will also be run under REMONDIS' name in the future. One of the reasons why German consumers do not need to return bottles to the supermarket they actually bought them from is because REMONDIS Recycling operates seven counting centres for disposable bottles across the whole of Germany and offers a reliable IT system with comprehensive billing services for food retailers and industrial businesses. Welcome to REMONDIS.

It is extremely important in these turbulent times for companies to be aware of their social responsibilities. This is perhaps a little easier for REMONDIS being a provider of recycling services as it has an excellent sustainability record and can offer 33,000 people a permanent job – but there is always more that can be done. Whether it be investing in educational projects such as the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS, helping to make children more traffic aware to keep them safe on our roads or donating a vacuum truck to improve living conditions at a refugee camp in Iraq. REMONDIS and all its employees work hard each and every day to make our world that little bit better. Maybe this was the reason why 632 young people have chosen to start an apprenticeship at our company this year – 'working for the future'. A very big welcome to all our new colleagues at REMONDIS.

Yours

Max Köttgen

# Markets off balance?



REPORT: THE STATE IS FACILITATING MUNICIPAL MONOPOLIES – TAXPAYERS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE PAYING THE PRICE

Germany's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – collectively known as the 'Mittelstand' – are the backbone of the German economy. In fact, over 99 percent of all companies in the country belong to the Mittelstand. They generate more than half of the net national product, employ almost 60 percent of all workers and provide around 82 percent of all in-house apprenticeship jobs. Indeed, the country's SMEs are one of the main reasons why Germany's economy continues to be such a success. And yet this success is being put at risk in a number of sectors as there is something going on that is not quite right. Whilst it is perfectly normal for private sector companies to be subject to VAT laws and for them to take this tax into account when calculating their prices, a number of state-owned firms are exempt. What's more these municipal businesses are offering more and more services themselves, competing with and effectively pushing efficient private firms out of the market. As local authorities are exempt from charging VAT, they can offer their customers prices that are up to 19% cheaper – for exactly the same service. This has nothing whatsoever to do with fair competition. Private sector jobs are being put at risk, council tax revenues are falling.



Allowing municipal businesses to be exempt from charging VAT is putting SMEs at risk and burdening taxpayers

Those most affected are the private sector waste management and recycling firms. Local authorities, which have set up their own waste management companies, can organise these businesses so that they do not have to charge VAT – giving them a huge price advantage over their competitors from the private sector. According to Professor Roman Seer from the Institute for Tax Law and Tax Procedure Law at the Ruhr University in Bochum, this system – which is being protected by the German Ministry of Finance – is in breach of the law and is impacting negatively on municipal budgets and, as a result, on taxpayers.

**"Consumers have no control over their costs when municipal businesses operate as monopolies."**

Peter Kurth, President of the BDE (Federal Association of the German Waste Management Industry)

**Legal report confirms municipal tax privileges lead to unfair competition**

"On the one hand, this special status distorts competition in favour of municipal businesses. On the other, local residents across the country have to pay different prices for the same service," comments Professor Seer. He recently compiled a report on the subject for the BDE (Federal Association of the German Waste Management Industry) that was financed by REMONDIS Assets & Services GmbH & Co. KG. Local residents, whose waste is managed by private sector companies, must pay VAT. Local residents, whose waste is managed by companies owned by their local authority, must not. "Milk, for example, is taxed in exactly the same way whether the consumer buys it from a supermarket or a farm shop," the tax expert continued.

Value-added tax is an indirect consumer tax that aims to tax consumption by final consumers. It should make no difference whether the services are offered to consumers by a public or private sector business. There are a few specific cases where public institutions may be exempt from charging tax but even here this may not create a competitive situation that is particularly unfair for private sector providers. "Waste management is most definitely not one of these specific cases," the professor concluded.



Following its revision of Section 2b of the UStG (Value Added Tax Law), however, the German Ministry of Finance continues to stand by its decision to allow municipal businesses to be exempt from charging VAT – as it states quite clearly in a letter written on 16 December 2016. This privileged tax position not only applies to municipal waste management firms. It also puts a whole number of other private sector service providers at a disadvantage – from energy providers, to landscaping firms, all the way through to IT businesses. The Ministry continues, therefore, to defy the European Commission's ruling that the Republic of Germany ensure that fair competition is created in these areas as well.

Mike Mohring, head of the CDU parliamentary group in the Thuringian state parliament and chairman of the conference of financial spokespeople of all German states, believes this development is fatal. "Our society has become a great success thanks to its social market economy. It simply cannot be right that we rely on socialist structures for certain areas, such as waste management, or that we believe that the state is better at doing everything," Mike Mohring said. "The fact is it isn't and that's not its job anyway." The job of the state is to ensure that fair competition is in place.

The report was presented during a press conference in Berlin on 29 May; (from left to right) Bernhard Schodrowski, Press Officer BDE, Peter Kurth, BDE President, and Mike Mohring, Head of the CDU Parliamentary Group in the Thuringian State Parliament and Chairman of the Conference of Financial Spokespeople of all German States

There has been a clear trend across Germany towards remunicipalisation for many years now. More and more local authorities are founding their own companies so they can offer a range of services themselves. The VAT privileges are often the argument used for making this move. At the end of the day, however, these services are being permanently removed from the market. Being exempt from having to charge VAT, these companies effectively become municipal monopolies at the expense of the private sector and consumers.

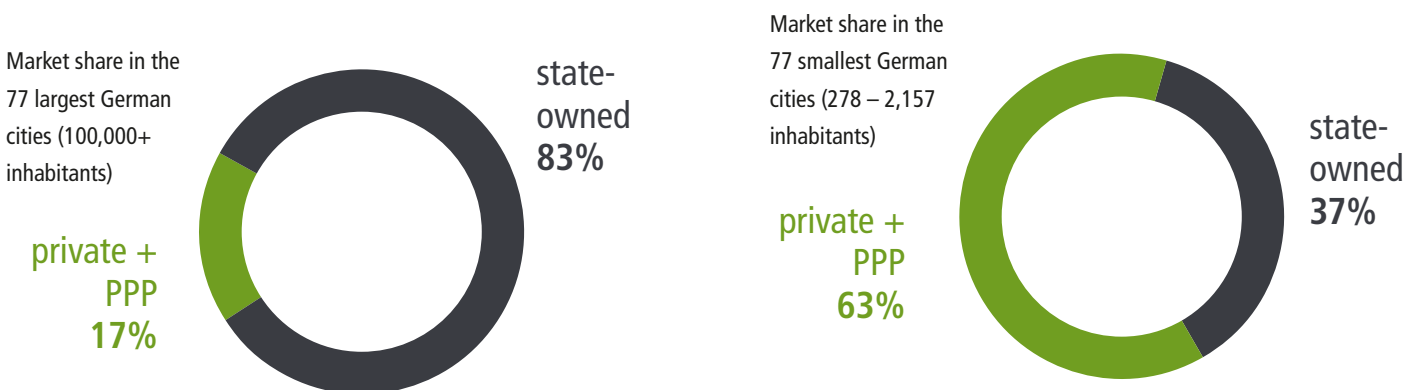
"Consumers have no control over their costs when municipal businesses operate as monopolies," commented Peter Kurth, President of the BDE. They do, though, if there is fair competition because they will only get a good price for a service if they can choose between a number of different businesses. "We wish to compete with municipal firms in a fair environment – this is only possible if public and private sector providers are subject to the same tax laws. May the best company then win so that local residents can benefit," Peter Kurth concluded.

Professor Seer's report can be found here (German only):



### Collection of residual & organic waste: Market share acc. to type of provider

Source: BDE



The efforts being made to push the private sector out of the market are already well under way. The market share of state-owned companies collecting residual and organic waste currently lies at 83% in the 77 largest German cities. Their share in the smallest German districts already lies at 37% – and this figure continues to rise. The lack of fair competition is throwing the markets off balance.

# Mike Mohring

## What is important is the price local residents pay

### An interview with Mike Mohring on VAT and tax privileges



**Mr Mohring, you are seen as being a political pragmatist looking to strengthen the CDU's core conservative values. These include upholding our social market economy and supporting our 'Mittelstand'. What do you think of the current trend towards municipalisation?**

The CDU finds it very worrying when SMEs offering public services are driven out of the market because city and district authorities have expanded the portfolio provided by their municipal companies. Dedicated family-run companies with strong ties to their regions have just as much right to fair competition in these regional sectors as well. At the end of the day, what is important is being able to offer our residents public services at appropriate prices.

**What do you believe has been fuelling this trend?**

It is a common belief of left-wing politicians that the state knows best how to run a business. They prefer to simply ignore the fact that many inefficiencies and arbitrary fees and charges were eradicated when the market was opened up to competition in the 90s. Instead, our economic system – which is currently based on protecting private property and free choice of employment – is being undermined, supposedly

to democratise regional economies and public services. Councils are turning business decisions into questions of power, the subsidiarity principle of municipal business activities is falling by the wayside. Indeed, this is the declared aim of the "red-red-green" coalition in the state of Thuringia. The key element behind the reforms being made to municipal areas is to create even larger municipal companies which, the left-wing coalition hopes, will grow efficiency.

**Municipal companies do not have to charge VAT. Is this promoting this trend?**

We are a party with strong ties to local and district councils. An important goal was achieved at national level when we revised Section 2b of the UStG (Value Added Tax Law). When two councils cooperate with each other and provide each other with assistance then they are exempt from charging VAT for these services. The political aim here was to create an environment so that councils do not need to merge their businesses and, consequently, further expand their municipal business activities. Given the above, however, such tax privileges should neither distort competition nor drive SMEs from the market. This was not the intention of the revision

Mike Mohring, Head of the CDU Parliamentary Group in the Thuringian State Parliament and Chairman of the Conference of Financial Spokespeople of all German States

and is not something that will be accepted. Should major problems arise from this revision then we will have to react. In other words: we need to keep a close eye on the impact that the new regulations have on the market.

**The setting up of municipal special purpose associations is also threatening the very existence of SMEs. This development is encouraged by municipal commercial law. At the end of the day, are councils not cutting off their own nose as this also reduces their business tax revenue?**

As you asked your question from the point of view of councils, I'll answer from the same perspective: in the end, they will have to see whether the profits made from their municipal business activities make up for the revenue lost as a result of receiving less business tax. The more important question here – from a regulatory point of view – is whether fair competition can still be guaranteed in view of the interest rate advantages for municipal financing and the assumption of municipal liability. Ultimately, the decisive factor will be whether or how the unconditional reliability of municipal claims can be upheld over the long term.

We will have to debate this question at some time or other and this will inevitably have an impact on the competition surrounding public services. The bankruptcy of the Gera utilities company has shown, for example, that there are unknown factors lurking in some municipal calculations.

**What can or should politicians do at state and national level to prevent SMEs from being increasingly squeezed out of the market?**

There are already a number of protective mechanisms in place for ensuring the subsidiarity principle of municipal business activities is observed. Local authorities and municipal supervisory bodies must take a critical look at themselves to see whether it has been applied with due diligence. There are signs that there is room for improvement here. Those areas, which must not adhere to the subsidiarity principle, should be checked frequently to see how sound they are. Municipal commercial laws, local regulations and financial regulations all limit municipal expansion in the German states. I believe there are two main points that need to be discussed at national level. Firstly: the cartel office keeps a close eye on prices but not on rates and charges. This is another point that could potentially distort competition besides the opportunities offered by the Value Added Tax Law.

**"We are a party with strong ties to local and district councils. An important goal was achieved at national level when we revised Section 2b of the UStG."**

Mike Mohring, Head of the CDU Parliamentary Group in Thuringia

This is typically referred to as "Flucht in die Gebühren" where councils escape [Flucht] scrutiny by charging fees [Gebühren] rather than prices. Secondly: awarding in-house contracts to municipal companies without putting them out to tender means SMEs are excluded from this process. This not only puts these companies at a disadvantage but local residents as well because, if there is no competition, they will never know if the service could have been provided more cheaply.

**Mr Mohring, many thanks for the interview.**

# Commercial waste: reduce, separate, recycle

THE NEW GERMAN COMMERCIAL WASTE ORDINANCE (GEWABFV) AFFECTS ALL COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

Conserving resources, increasing recycling rates and promoting the circular economy: these are the three main goals behind the amended German Commercial Waste Ordinance (GewAbfV) that came into force on 01 August. This latest version replaces the previous German Commercial Waste Ordinance that had been passed in 2002. It would have been impossible, over the long term, for the German and EU climate targets to have been met with the 2002 version – primarily because the most has not been made (to date) of the opportunities available to recycle commercial waste and construction and demolition waste. The result: a new set of rules has been drawn up on segregating, pre-treating and documenting commercial waste that applies to all commercial waste producers.

In order to ensure different waste streams are kept apart from each other so they can be recycled, the new ordinance stipulates exactly how waste should be separated and stored on a business premises. Waste must now be segregated into the following categories at the place it is produced:

- Paper, card & cardboard
- Glass
- Plastics
- Metals
- Wood
- Textiles
- Organic waste
- If applicable, other types of commercial & industrial waste

Commercial businesses operating building sites must also segregate and store glass, plastics, metals, wood, insulation material, bitumen mixtures, gypsum-based building materials, concrete and bricks/roof tiles as well as wall/floor tiles and ceramic products separately. These new regulations mean that businesses need to considerably increase the number of bins and containers they have on their premises so that their materials are recycled in the best possible way.

Herwart Wilms, REMONDIS managing director, said that the amendment was not only necessary to achieve the EU's targets, it also very much facilitated the German government's

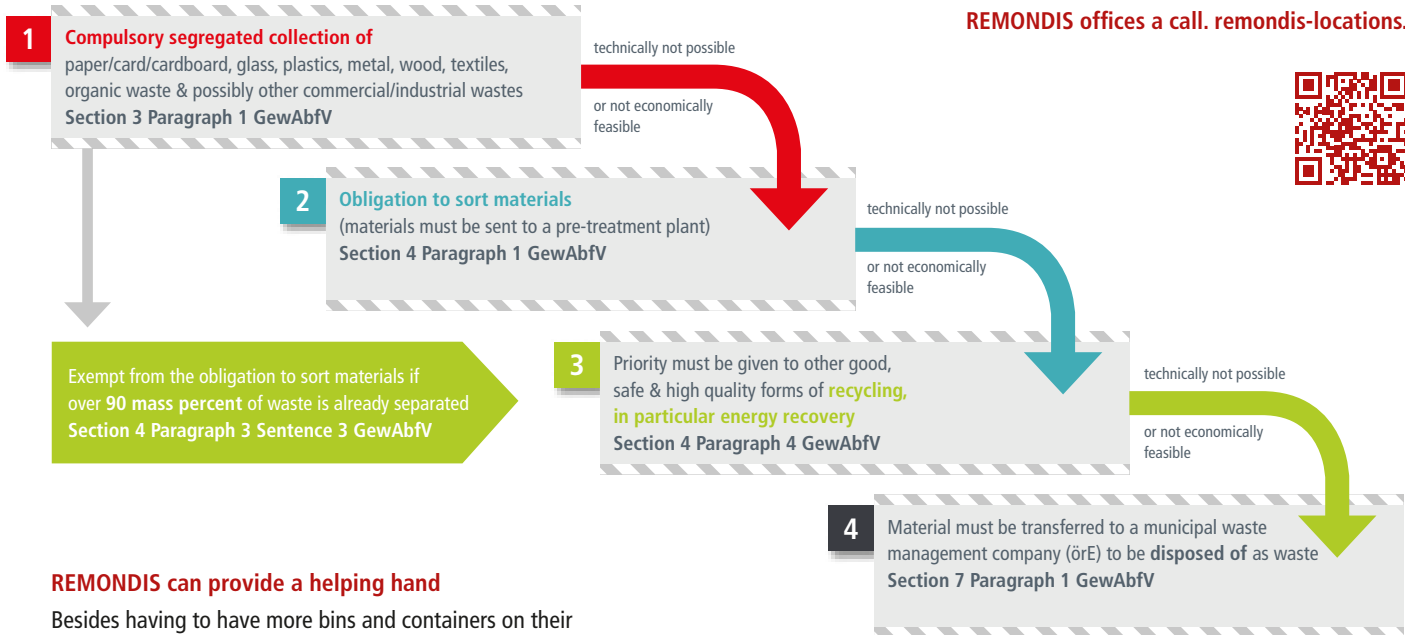
goal to increase recycling rates. "We have to conserve our planet's natural resources so that there are sufficient raw materials for future generations. Segregating waste at source is the only solution. Sorting plants are not able to separate waste as effectively or as well which means they are a second-rate alternative when it comes to conserving resources. What's more, they are also very expensive for customers," he explained.

Having said this, though, some businesses may find it practically impossible to separate their waste as stipulated in the ordinance. They may, for example, have too little space for so many bins or produce such small volumes of waste that it would be unreasonable – both technically and financially – to expect them to store their different waste streams separately. In such cases, these companies will be permitted to throw their commercial or demolition/construction waste into one bin. They must, however, be able to prove that these materials were sent to and processed by a sorting plant. In exceptional cases, this obligation may no longer apply if it is not technically or economically feasible to sort these materials. Companies that are particularly environmentally friendly, i.e. they already separate at least 90% of their commercial waste, are exempt from these new rules. They will be released from their obligation to pre-treat their waste if they are able to submit proof of their high waste segregation rates, which must also have been confirmed by an expert. Their remaining commingled waste may then be sent for thermal treatment.





## OBLIGATIONS FOR PRODUCERS OF COMMERCIAL WASTE



Do you need advice or have you got a specific question that needs answering? Then simply contact your REMONDIS adviser or give your local REMONDIS offices a call. [remondis-locations.com](http://remondis-locations.com)



### REMONDIS can provide a helping hand

Besides having to have more bins and containers on their premises, waste producers now have considerable more paperwork to complete. REMONDIS is more than happy to help anyone running a commercial business to ensure they meet their new obligations. In such cases, REMONDIS employees travel to their business to analyse the way their waste is being handled so they can adapt their system to optimise waste segregation. If requested, they can also compile a report detailing the business' waste statistics, including what percentage of materials is currently being separated. "A customer can see how successful a system is

by observing how their waste segregation rates improve. What's more, our unique Sustainability Certificate provides official proof of how their waste management measures help protect the environment – showing how consumption of primary raw materials and energy is reduced and greenhouse gas emissions cut. A success that not only further promotes environmental awareness but also gives businesses a competitive edge," concluded Herwart Wilms.

# Packaging Law: not a sham but more could still be done

THE NEW GERMAN PACKAGING LAW IS BEING SEEN AS A POSITIVE COMPROMISE FOR THE RECYCLING SECTOR, THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

On 30 March 2017, the German government passed the country's first ever law to focus entirely on recycling and preventing packaging waste: the Packaging Law. This had been preceded by twelve months of heated discussions on what would be the best option to increase recycling and protect the environment. Whilst many would have preferred a recyclables law, the new law is effectively a compromise for the recycling sector, the packaging industry and the environment.

EKO-PUNKT offers licensing solutions for all types of packaging materials. These include transport packaging, grouped packaging, filling material containing hazardous substances

The new German Packaging Law, which will come into full force on 01 January 2019, is a first statutory step to be taken by the German government to ensure that the environment will not suffer from the rising rates of consumption in Germany. What is significant here is that, for the first time, the legislator has stipulated in concrete terms that producers are also responsible for making sure that levels of recycling increase and that less waste is produced. This means, for example, that packaging producers must use recycled raw materials to manufacture their products wherever possible and maximise the recyclability of their packaging. The fundamental idea of producer responsibility has, therefore, been set out in law for the first time. If raw materials are to be recovered for re-use, it is vital that this responsibility is placed on all producers across all industries, including for example automotive suppliers.

As far as the recycling industry is concerned, there are three further important changes besides these environmental requirements for packaging producers: firstly, new monitoring and organisational structures are to be set up for licensing

packaging which aim to strengthen competition and create fair framework conditions; secondly, the new law sets much higher recycling rates; and thirdly, local authorities now have a say on the conditions set out in individual tenders.

## A closer look at the most important changes The central office

The so-called 'Zentrale Stelle' or central office was set up in June and was one of the first changes to be implemented. The 'Zentrale Stelle' foundation is being financed by the system's operators and operators of industry-specific schemes and is made up of representatives of different companies operating within the sector. All in all, this foundation is responsible for fulfilling 31 specific tasks which include ensuring all producers and distributors of packaging have registered, checking the 'Vollständigkeitserklärung' [declaration of completeness] and the 'Mengenstromnachweis' [record of volumes], determining market share and, to a certain extent, making sure the system is properly enforced. Producers must now also register packaging that accumulates at private consumers if they wish to sell such products.

**“This is an important signal from the German government and a decision that certainly gives us the security we need to make future investments.”**

Herwart Wilms, REMONDIS Managing Director

### Higher recycling rates

In the future, the so-called dual systems, which collect licensed packaging and are financed by industrial and commercial businesses, must considerably increase their recycling rates and be able to provide proof of this. The recycling rate for plastic packaging, for example, must increase from the current 36% to 63% by 2022. Recycling rates for packaging made of metal, glass and paper must have risen to 90% by 2022. The dual systems must adjust their licence fees accordingly to promote more environmentally friendly packaging. The efforts made by producers to reduce waste or to use reusable packaging should be rewarded with lower prices. In the future, there should be clear labelling on the products to encourage private consumers to buy, for example, reusable rather than disposable drinks packaging in order to increase the use of reusable packaging to 70% over the long term.

### New powers for local authorities

In the future, local authorities will have the right to instruct the dual systems how collections should be carried out in their districts. This may, for example, include the type of collection scheme, which type of bin should be used or how often the bins should be emptied. It is also up to the local authorities whether they wish to have a recyclables bin rather than a packaging bin in their region. However, the conditions stipulated by the councils must be economically and technically feasible for the dual systems and must not demand a higher quality of service than the local authorities expect of their own bin collections.

### A positive response to the new law

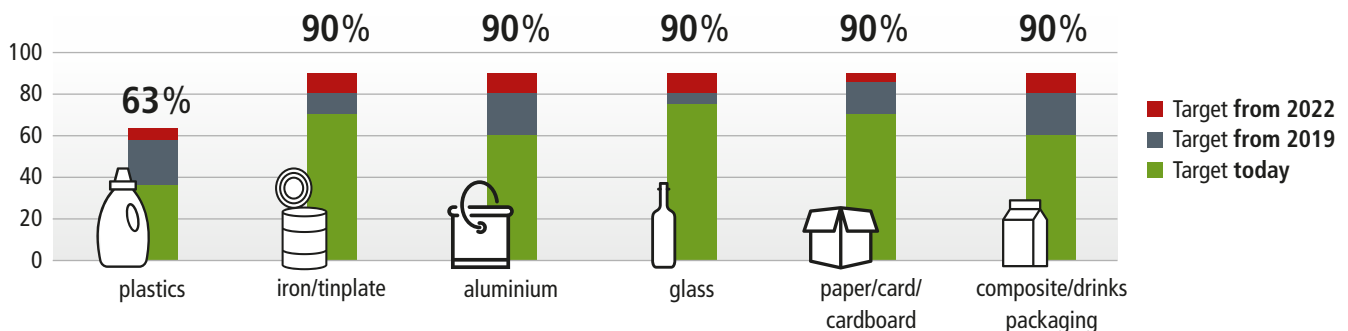
“Finally a decision has been reached following the months of discussions of whether there should be a recyclables or packaging law. This is an important signal from the German government and a decision that certainly gives us the security we need to make future investments,” commented Herwart Wilms, REMONDIS managing director. Federal Minister of the Environment Barbara Hendricks sees the law as being a victory for common sense and Peter Kurth, president of the BDE (Federal Association of the German Waste Management Industry), hopes the new recycling targets will provide just the momentum that the industry needs.

All in all, the recycling sector sees the new German Packaging Law as being no more than a compromise. Having tried for years to persuade the Government to introduce a recyclables law, the packaging law has not caused them to break out into loud cheers. Everyone agrees that they should not lose sight of their overall aim as there are still volumes of recyclable waste that have not yet been tapped into, stressed Herwart Wilms.

As far as the recycling sector is concerned, it will be the central office that will ensure there is fair competition in the future – although here, too, there are still two weak points: it may prove difficult to carry out completely independent reviews with this central office being made up primarily of representatives of the packaging industry. Moreover, all enforcement tasks should be divided up clearly between the enforcement agencies, such as foundations, state authorities etc, to make sure that the German Packaging Law is implemented successfully.

The recycling sector does not intend to lose sight of the volumes of recyclable waste that have yet to be tapped into

### Higher recycling rates for recyclables



# Even more recycling under one roof

REMONDIS ACQUIRES MODERN FULL SERVICE SYSTEMS FOR GLASS, PLASTICS, DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEMES AND TEXTILES FROM RHENUS

**REMONDIS®**  
WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

All in all, REMONDIS  
Recycling has

 **26**  
locations

in three countries  
and more than

**600**   
employees

REMONDIS has further extended its recycling and material flow network by taking over all shares in Rhenus Recycling. Whilst, in the past, glass, plastics and textiles had been recycled by RHENUS – activities perhaps outside this sister company’s core business of logistics – these operations will now be run by Germany’s largest recycling firm. REMONDIS Recycling itself has a total of 26 business locations in three countries and more than 600 employees. It operates glass treatment plants, plastics processing plants and a facility for sorting and recycling textiles and offers a whole range of services for these three individual material streams. As far as the customers are concerned, this means everything is provided by just one company. This will, in particular, make life easier for local authorities and business owners. One contact person, short transport routes and access to an unparalleled network of plants and services for all material streams, including deposit return schemes, will all ensure services are delivered faster, more efficiently and more sustainably.

“Changing the company’s outer appearance is certainly an important step, as it makes it clear to the market that these areas are now a part of REMONDIS. The internal structures that we have built up over the years will, however, remain in place,” commented managing director, Christoph Bildstein. The only person who has changed is the board member in charge: Christoph Bildstein, Max Kremers and Ralf Mandelatz now report to REMONDIS board member, Max Köttgen. Their individual fields of business, teams of employees and business partners remain unchanged. For the most part, the responsibilities of the three reflect the three business divisions: glass, plastics and textiles as well as logistics.

## Glass, plastics, deposit return schemes & textiles

Having worked within the glass recycling sector for over 40 years now, the company is both pioneer and market leader in this field. Its tasks include collecting old glass from diverse large and medium-sized towns as well as rural districts and then processing the material at both its eleven glass treatment plants and its glass grinding facility. Thanks to its state-of-the-art technology, the company is able to supply the glass industry with cullet separated according to type and colour.

RE Plano has been a well-known name in the plastics recycling sector for over 60 years now. Under Norbert Rethmann’s

careful eye, RE Plano has spent many years looking at ways to recycle old plastic. Thanks to the cutting-edge technology they have developed, REMONDIS PET Recycling is able to produce quality PET flakes that can be used as a recycled raw material by the plastics industry to make new products.

Being one of the co-founders of the German deposit return scheme, REMONDIS Recycling has now become the market leader offering its customers a wide selection of deposit return services for both disposable and reusable bottles and cans. These include operating seven counting centres for handling disposable bottles across Germany as well as comprehensive billing services for food retailers and industrial businesses. Thanks to this scheme, consumers do not have to return bottles to the supermarket they bought them from. A reliable IT system, run by the company’s own computer centre, guarantees both competent services and the highest levels of security.

The textiles sorting and recycling plant in Polch (near Koblenz), which is now being operated by REMONDIS Textilrecycling, sorts second-hand clothes and shoes into nine different categories so that they can be sent on for recycling. The clothes comes from municipal and charity collections, for example from Kolping or the German Red Cross. Thanks to these activities, the company is also able to support charitable organisations.

# RESPRAY in the final of the GreenTec Awards


REMONDIS' AEROSOL CAN RECYCLING PROCESS ONE OF THE BEST AT EUROPE'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS SUSTAINABILITY PRIZE IN BERLIN

Robert Sonnenschein, managing director of REMONDIS Industrie Service, and Fabian Möllers, head of the RESPRAY division, left the presentation of this year's GreenTec Awards feeling very proud of their achievements. They and their innovative aerosol can recycling process had begun as one of 100 competitors and had made it to the final for the 'Resources and Recycling' category.

The 10th presentation ceremony for the GreenTec Awards, Europe's most prestigious environmental prize, was held in Berlin this year on 12 May. Once again, only the best of the best had been invited for each category – according to the jury this most certainly also included inviting Robert Sonnenschein and Fabian Möllers to represent REMONDIS' aerosol can recycling system. Their system, RESPRAY, had been officially named one of the four projects in the 'Resources and Recycling' category still to be in the running for the wooden trophy.

"It was a really exciting evening that focused on the environment in every possible way. The red carpet was green, the award was made of wood and even the food was fair trade and clean," commented Robert Sonnenschein. Met by a sea of cameras, he and Fabian Möllers entered the building via the green carpet alongside celebrities such as Nena and rapper Samy Deluxe. He was to be presented with a GreenTec Award for his song lyrics that have been helping to make sustainable development a popular subject.

The event itself was highly entertaining with Annemarie Carpendale and Matthias Killing hosting the evening, music played by the band Frida Gold and a whole number of interesting speeches introducing the winners. All in all, it highlighted just how modern, topical and indeed acute the whole subject of environmental protection has become.

 To find out more about RESPRAY's services and offers go to [respray.com](http://respray.com)

After the awards ceremony: (from left to right) Matthias Harms, Managing Director VEOLIA Umweltservice GmbH, Robert Sonnenschein, Managing Director REMONDIS Industrie Service GmbH, and Peter Kurth, President of the BDE (Federal Association of the German Waste Management Industry)

RESPRAY was nominated for the GreenTec Awards: [click here](#) to see the short film made during the awards ceremony



Robert Sonnenschein, REMONDIS Managing Director, and Fabian Möllers, Head of the RESPRAY Division, had a very successful evening

Each award was preceded by short films to let the audience know what the projects were about – with the film about RESPRAY receiving much applause. The satisfied look on the faces of all those involved lasted well into the night. "RESPRAY began as a very small project six years ago. It is a really proud moment to see it up there on the big screen," Fabian Möllers explained to the other participants. He could never have imagined back then that they would be invited to take part in the final of Europe's most prestigious sustainability award. They also received a lot of praise from individual jury members after the awards ceremony. "RESPRAY would appear to have left a lasting impression on many of the people here. That is what has made this evening such a success for us," said Robert Sonnenschein.

RESPRAY, a division owned by REMONDIS Industrie Service GmbH, leads the market when it comes to recycling aerosol cans – offering a full range of environmentally friendly services for storing, collecting, transporting and recycling aerosol cans.



MISSION  
IMPOSSIBLE?

# Not for REMONDIS Industrie Service!

COMPLEX PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES

**REMONDIS®**  
WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

A look at some of the more unusual projects recently carried out by REMONDIS Industrie Service and its sister companies show just how important their work is – also when it collaborates with local authorities. RIS' branch in Trier recently had to deal with a potentially hazardous material that proved to be a real challenge. The authorities and environmental agencies there had spent over a year looking for a company that was capable of professionally managing the collection and disposal of 100 tonnes of earth that was presumed to be contaminated with anthrax. Having received an enquiry from the authorities, RIS' branch sat down with REMONDIS Medison GmbH, Buchen Umweltservice, Rhenus Logistics and TRV Wesseling (hazardous waste incineration plant) to draw up a suitable waste management concept. They were, therefore, able to find an answer to the problem within no time at all – a problem that had, for a long time, appeared to be impossible to solve.

Anthrax in the ground –  
a danger that is widely  
underrated



## Anthrax – helping the City of Trier

How though had the anthrax spores got into the earth in the first place? Generally speaking, there is always a risk that any land, which has been used for centuries by businesses to process animal by-products such as hides, may be infected with this dangerous pathogen. In the case in question, an old tanning pit had to be dug up and removed from the grounds of an old tannery. This pit had been used to tan animal hides with bark to produce leather for shoes and clothes. The surrounding area had also been contaminated by the contents of the pit so there was also the danger that anthrax spores were present there, too. Anthrax is an often fatal infectious disease that primarily affects cloven-hoofed animals. It can, however, also be transmitted to humans. Last century, some countries even developed biological weapons

containing anthrax bacteria. The problem: if the spores are in the right environment, they can survive for over 100 years without a host. It is, therefore, extremely difficult to handle such potentially dangerous projects as they require specialist procedures and stringent safety measures. An obvious case for the specialists from RIS, BUCHEN, Rhenus (for the transport), Medison and TRV Thermische Rückstandsverwertung in Wesseling. Alexander Kleer from REMONDIS Industrie Service was responsible for coordinating the work. He and his team dealt with all the organisational details – from the acquisition, to the selection of the team members, all the way through to purchasing, output, logistics, the electronic records procedure and managing the actual operations.

Strict safety measures must be in place when handling potentially toxic materials. REMONDIS' employees had to wear full body protection while they filled the special containers with the contaminated earth



The warehouse, therefore, had to be cleared out as quickly as possible as its floor had not been adequately sealed and there was real danger of the soil and groundwater becoming contaminated.

The work was carried out in a concerted action – from excavating the earth in a hermetically sealed area, to transporting it, all the way through to incinerating it

Wearing full body protection, the operatives packed the infectious waste in special 50l - 120l containers in a special decontamination tent provided by Buchen Umweltservice and then sent it to be disposed of at the hazardous waste incineration plant, TRV. All in all, the company filled 4,410 containers which had been supplied by REMONDIS Medison. Rhenus Logistics ensured the infectious waste was transported safely to the plant, a routine task for the company. Thanks to REMONDIS, the land is completely safe again and can once again be put to good use.

#### **Illegal waste store removed – danger averted**

In September 2016, a pile of illegal waste was discovered in a warehouse in Kreuztal-Eichen in the Siegerland region on the grounds of an old electroplating business that had gone bankrupt. Not only had the warehouse not been approved for storing waste, the waste had also been placed in containers that were not fit for purpose. These comprised approx. 350 plastic IBC containers that may only be used for transporting dangerous substances for a maximum five years after their date of manufacture. The ca. 250m<sup>3</sup> of chrome and nickel-contaminated rinsing water and 60m<sup>3</sup> of old acids were in plastic containers that were older than five years, which meant they were no longer leak proof.

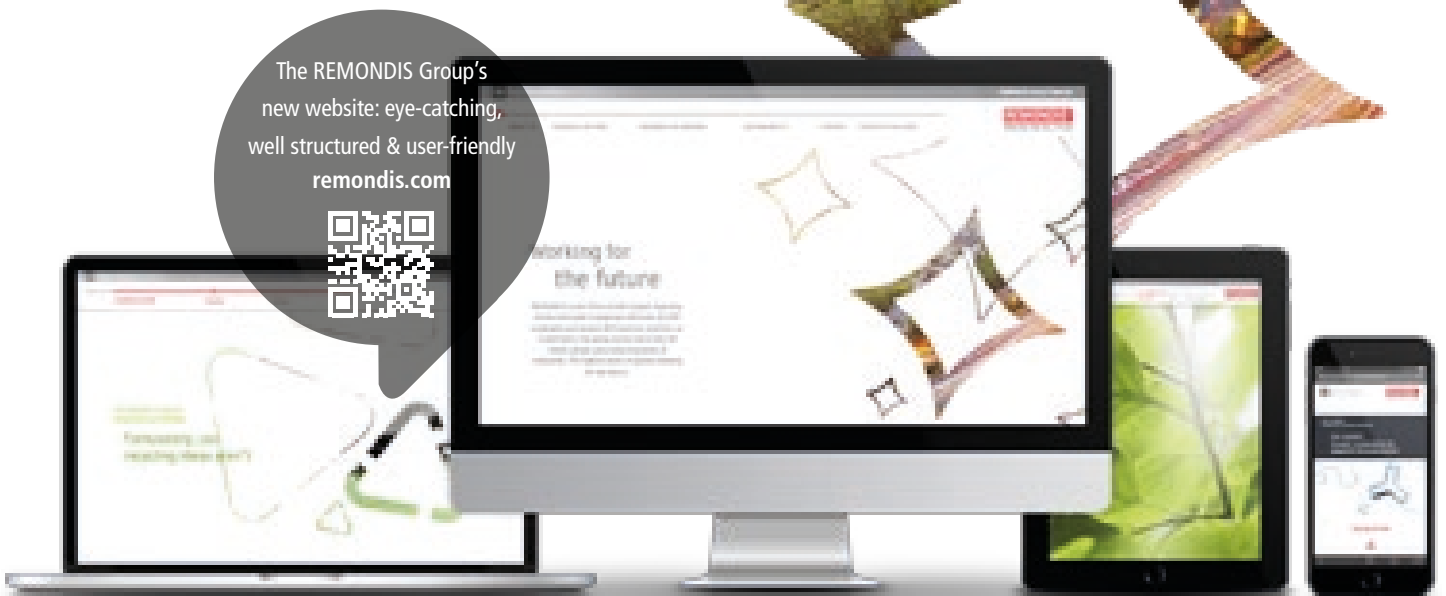
The Arnsberg regional authorities took immediate action to make the area safe and draw up a waste management concept together with the VÜA, an association responsible for monitoring technical facilities. Having put the project out to tender, they then awarded the contract to REMONDIS Industrie Service at the end of February 2017, as they had been impressed by both their concept and the cost effectiveness and scheduling of the work involved. The illegal waste store was removed by REMONDIS Industrie Service with the help of its subsidiary, SUC, in April – according to plan and within schedule. As the majority of the containers could no longer be transported by road, a vacuum truck was called in to remove their contents. Sealed surfaces were installed both inside and outside the warehouse and additional protection added around the hose of the vacuum truck to ensure the highest safety levels were in place. "Everything was removed without a problem," confirmed both the Arnsberg regional authorities and Dr Arnold Feldmann, branch manager. The company was able to complete the work exactly as planned, within budget and according to schedule. The temporary sealed surfaces have now also been removed from the site.

**Stringent safety levels, cost effectiveness and quick reactions are all decisive factors**

**"Everything was removed without a problem."**

confirmed both the Arnsberg regional authorities and Dr Arnold Feldmann, Branch Manager REMONDIS Industrie Service Lennestadt

The REMONDIS Group's new website: eye-catching, well structured & user-friendly [remondis.com](http://remondis.com)



# A complete makeover for [remondis.com](http://remondis.com)

A CLEARLY STRUCTURED DESIGN WITH NEW SEARCH FUNCTIONS, INFOGRAPHICS AND A 'REMONDIS IN GERMANY' SECTION

People visiting the [remondis.de](http://remondis.de) website can now get to the information they are looking for faster than ever before. As part of its relaunch, the REMONDIS Group's website has been given a new, eye-catching design as well as two really useful search functions that make life much easier for all those wishing to find more detailed information about the company. Moreover, charts or infographics have been drawn up for each of the Group's divisions – recycling, services and water – summarising the wide variety of services on offer. The new section 'REMONDIS in Germany' provides users with information about all of the REMONDIS companies operating in Germany.

Two search functions are at the heart of the new website making it incredibly easy for people to get straight to the information they wish to find. The full text search function enables users to enter a search word. The tool then looks for this term across all of the websites operated by the REMONDIS companies. If a user wishes to find out more about a service or a branch, then the tool checks through the more than 100 websites run by the Group's specialist and regional firms to search for it. A list of results then appears directing the user to the pages that contain the information they are looking for.

People who are looking for information about REMONDIS but who are not sure what the exact name of the service is can use the second search function: the index search tool. First they must specify whether they are a private individual, company or local authority. They can then choose between a list of services or a list of websites. The list of services shows all the services provided by all the different REMONDIS companies for their specific target group in alphabetical order. The list of websites provides the users with an overview of the REMONDIS companies relevant to their target group and allows them to access the individual sites with a single click. What's more, REMONDIS has published eye-catching charts on its website summarising for the first time the many services offered by its recycling, services and water divisions.



Sustainability is at the core of REMONDIS' business. Which is why we have dedicated a whole website to the subject. Why not take a look and be inspired as well?! [remondis-sustainability.com](http://remondis-sustainability.com)





# In Australia's Snowy Mountains

## REMONDIS WINS SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL COLLECTION CONTRACT

The Snowy Monaro Regional Council, amalgamated just last year, can be found a good 100km south of the Australian capital Canberra. This picturesque region is a popular summer and winter destination for both Australian and international tourists wishing to visit the Snowy Mountains, the seemingly never-ending forests, the Monaro Plains and the wild Snowy River as well as the region's beautiful villages and modern centres. REMONDIS Australia has now been awarded the collection contract for this part of Australia.

REMONDIS Australia has provided ad-hoc hook-lift services to the region for many years, which are managed from REMONDIS Australia's Canberra branch. Under the new contract, REMONDIS Australia will establish a new branch in Cooma for truck parking and bin storage. REMONDIS will provide kerbside collection services to Cooma and hook-lift services to the surrounding townships of Adaminaby, Berridale, Bredbo, Bombala, Delegate, Jindabyne, Numerella and Nimmitabel.

The new contract will see the traditional crate collection system for recyclables (with separated paper and cardboard) combined to deliver an integrated and fully commingled service with new 360l bins issued to Cooma residents. Recyclables will be transported by REMONDIS Australia to Canberra for processing. Dean Lynch, Snowy Monaro Regional Council Administrator, commented: "This new contract is the best value option for ratepayers."

Susie McBurney, REMONDIS manager for News South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, looked ahead to their work with the council: "REMONDIS is excited to expand its



Susie McBurney, REMONDIS Manager for News South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, signing the contract with Dean Lynch, Snowy Monaro Regional Council Administrator

services in the region and looks forward to delivering exceptional customer service in partnership with Council under the new contract."

Despite its remoteness, the region is renowned for implementing innovative recycling programmes, including food and garden organics collection and processing systems. REMONDIS Australia and Snowy Monaro Regional Council make the ideal partnership to deliver additional innovations and improvements to waste and recycling services in the region.

**"This new contract is the best value option for ratepayers."**

Dean Lynch, Snowy Monaro Regional Council Administrator

# Focusing on sustainable goals

## REMONDIS BELARUS' SUCCESSFUL WORK PAVES THE WAY FOR MORE EFFICIENT WASTE SEGREGATION

In 2016, SOOO REMONDIS Minsk handled 200,000 tonnes of residual waste and 5,000 tonnes of materials from recycling bins. The additional work carried out by the company beyond the three districts it is responsible for in the Belarusian capital and the increase in the amount of recyclables it has been able to recover may have an impact on its future operations.

Almost 80 percent of Belarus' approximately ten million inhabitants live in towns and cities. The country's urban hub is, however, without a doubt its capital city Minsk which is home to practically two million people. "REMONDIS serves three of Minsk's nine districts – collecting waste and recovering recyclables from around one million local residents," explained Dr Ervin Kurtbedinov, managing director of REMONDIS Belarus. "We took over these operations at the beginning of the decade as part of a joint venture in which REMONDIS owns 51% of the shares and the City of Minsk 49%."

SOOO REMONDIS Minsk and its 200+ employees organise waste management in the three districts whereby their focus is always on segregating recyclable from non-recyclable

materials. They have built up a dedicated fleet of around 70 modern vehicles so that they can offer their services.

"It is very clear that our work is appreciated – both by the local residents, who take their waste to the various containers, and by our main client, Minsk's municipal company," Dr Ervin Kurtbedinov continued. "We have often been praised for both the quality and the transparency of our work. The system that we have introduced here was based on our years of experience of working in Germany and other countries. Over the last seven years, we have continuously been adapting the professional networks used in other areas to meet the local conditions found here. Life in Belarus is in a state of flux and we have to adjust to the way things work here."

## REMONDIS Board Member Egbert Tölle meets the Belarusian Foreign Minister

In his position as Chair of the Belarus working group at the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, REMONDIS Board Member Egbert Tölle has been working in an honorary capacity promoting the economic relations between Germany and Belarus for a number of years now. This work recently included him organising a trip to Minsk for a number of business people. The newly founded German-Belarusian business council also had their first official meeting during the trip, which took place between 30 May and 02 June. Co-Chair of the business council is Felix Zimmermann, who also works for REMONDIS where he is responsible for public affairs in Eastern Europe. The council's inaugural meeting was also attended by Peter Dettmar, the German Ambassador based in Minsk, and Wladimir Makej, the Belarusian Foreign Minister.



5000 REMONDIS Minsk deploys more than 70 collection vehicles in the country's capital



Previously known as the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic, the country used to be the most western part of the Soviet Union. Now, around 25 years since gaining its independence, it is looking to play its role as a neighbour of both the European Union and Russia, which has always had an influence on what happens in Minsk.

One of the consequences of the Republic of Belarus gradually strengthening its position as an independent state on the global stage has, of course, been that its social and economic processes have changed as well. The subject of recycling has also taken a more prominent position than in the past now that the country is free to make its own decisions regarding energy issues.

"We wish to help Belarus as it takes the next step in its development. We can do this by making the most of our stable position as a family-run company, by using the local know-how of our employees and by pursuing our overall mission to make business more sustainable wherever we can. Compared to the recycling systems found in Western Europe, there is certainly still room for improvement here – especially when it comes to the amount of raw materials that are recovered from waste for re-use," commented Dr Ervin Kurtbedinov. "We are always happy to talk to people who are interested in handling recyclables more responsibly – no matter how old or young they may be and no matter whether they are private individuals, companies or from local authorities."

### Learning about recycling through play

More than 130 schoolchildren attending the secondary school 21 in Minsk spent a number of hours in their assembly hall this May to learn all about segregating waste. Once the event had been opened by their headteacher, representatives of the City of Minsk and Dr Kurtbedinov from REMONDIS Belarus, the children had the opportunity to take part in a variety of games – a fun way to find out how segregating waste works and why it is so important. The idea behind the event is simple: the joint venture company, REMONDIS Minsk, wishes to encourage people to start separating their waste at an early age and has developed a recycling concept for schools and youth organisations to get their message across. A number of such special events have already been held at several different schools and have always been given an enthusiastic welcome. Plans are, therefore, to expand and offer this project to other schools as well.



# Better air, better soil

**NEW COMPOSTING PLANT NEAR OSNABRÜCK SETS NEW STANDARDS PAVING THE WAY FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Kompostierungsgesellschaft Region Osnabrück, a REMONDIS joint venture more commonly known as KRO, not only supplies high quality soils, it also stands on historic soil. The history of this region stretches all the way back to the Roman Empire and Augustus – although few were aware of this until just recently. It was, in fact, purely by chance that archaeologists discovered this was the site of the famous Battle of the Teutoburg Forest – around 2,000 years later. This moorland, which Varus' legions found such hard going, has proven to be the ideal location for one of Germany's largest composting plants. Just a few kilometres from the site of the battle, KRO is now helping to preserve this moorland and others like it.

A climate-friendly alternative for good soils

It all began with a fire at the old composting plant back in 2014. The flames had caused so much damage that the facility had to close down its operations. With this predominantly agricultural region having such a good infrastructure and being so conveniently located, the decision was soon made to rebuild the plant. The most has been made here of the experience gathered from the REMONDIS Group's many other organic waste treatment plants to improve the technology and cost-effectiveness of the new facility. As a result, it is to be considerably upgraded with more efficient processes, better fire protection and high quality and more cost-effective building materials. Unlike the old facility

which met the EU efficiency class IE3, KRO will only be using motors that meet the higher efficiency class IE4 in its new composting plant – leading to a further 10% reduction in carbon emissions compared to current standards.

## Compost as a substitute for peat

As it is, the compost itself helps improve the quality of soils and contributes towards preventing climate change. Compost enhances agricultural land making it an ideal substitute for natural turf or peat. Peat is a raw material that is formed very slowly: on average, a moorland's peat layer grows by just 1mm a year. 8,000 years, for example, were needed for the Teufelsmoor (Devil's Moor) near Worpswede in the north of Germany to be formed. Peaty moorland is extremely important for the environment as it can store far more carbon than rainforests. In fact, even though moorland landscapes only cover 3% of the earth's surface, they absorb twice the amount of carbon than all the forests in the world. What's more, the water-logged soils have a positive impact on our climate, as evaporation lowers the temperature. Using compost, such as that made in Bohmte, therefore, is a sustainable way of protecting our environment and curbing global warming.

The new motors with the higher efficiency class IE4





KRO Managing Directors, Arne Tiedemann and Wolfgang Schöning, at the site in Bohmte where the new composting plant is being built

The new plant will produce organic fertiliser that is far more environmentally friendly than many other fertilisers currently available on the market. When it has been completed, it will be able to handle an impressive 120,000 tonnes per year. Whilst plans are for it to only process biowaste from the organic waste bins, it will also be able to treat variable volumes of tree and plant cuttings. By building such a flexible facility, KRO will be able to respond to both market changes and its customers' wishes. To begin with, it will be accepting materials from the city and district of Osnabrück, although this is expected to be extended to cover other regions in north Germany. All that is needed now is for the politicians to play their part. "The fact that the new German fertiliser ordinance puts compost and liquid manure on par with each



Organic compost helps protect moorland

**"The fact that the new German fertiliser ordinance puts compost and liquid manure on par with each other makes no sense whatsoever. Indeed, this decision is likely to have a negative impact on the efforts currently being made to promote organic waste bins in order to close organic material cycles."**


Wolfgang Schöning, KRO

other makes no sense whatsoever. Indeed, this decision is likely to have a negative effect on the efforts currently being made to promote organic waste bins in order to close organic material cycles," explained KRO managing director, Wolfgang Schöning. KRO believes changes must be made here and made quickly. Politicians need to amend the German fertiliser ordinance so that compost keeps its special status as a sustainable and environmentally friendly soil improver. Unlike liquid manure, using compost does not impact negatively on groundwater. The laws passed to prevent climate change, to protect our lakes and rivers and to improve soils must not contradict each other. High quality compost is an environmentally friendly product that can help achieve all three goals.

Instead of installing the currently valid EU efficiency class IE3, KRO will only be using motors that meet the higher efficiency class IE4 in its new plant.



This will lead to a further 10% reduction in carbon emissions compared to current standards.

10% CO<sub>2</sub> 

# Climate change: a topic for the classroom

## CHILDREN'S CLIMATE DAY IN ISERLOHN A HUGE SUCCESS AMONG PUPILS AND TEACHERS ALIKE

Climate change has certainly been one of the most publicly debated subjects over the last few years. Countless articles have been written by the media, diverse campaigns, projects, groups and research institutes have been founded – all of them to promote environmental protection and to tackle global warming. The number of facts being published about this issue is growing all the time and yet schools and universities must still look to the media, the business world and charitable organisations for support in this area. The teachers attending this year's Children's Climate Day were obviously impressed by the many educational projects that were on offer.

On 01 July, 400 schoolchildren of varying ages made their way to SASE's offices in Iserlohn to take part in a special event that gave them the opportunity to look more closely at the subjects of climate change and recycling. The association, 'Klimaschutz durch Kreislaufwirtschaft e.V.' [Recycling to prevent climate change], had succeeded in turning their idea of holding a Children's Climate Day into reality in their very own city. The head of the association, Yvonne Busch, had called on all members to join in and present their educational projects as part of the NRW.KlimaTage2017 [NRW Climate Days]. The result was an enjoyable and interesting day for all, with a whole range of entertaining hands-on events for the children and a wide variety of information and teaching material for their teachers. A total of five classes (Years 3 to 6) spent the morning taking a close look at how waste collection vehicles work and playing educational games to learn more about how to segregate waste and save energy.

At present, very little time is dedicated to such subjects in school classrooms. One of the reasons for this is certainly because universities offering teacher training courses are not obliged to hold seminars on these topics. Whilst they are certainly pertinent to school subjects such as Geography, Biology, Politics and Social Studies, they are not a must. Private and non-profit educational institutes are, therefore, both an alternative and a motivator for those determining educational policies. The different German states have reacted very differently to each other. In Hessen, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland, the government and charitable organisations are collaborating to help teachers learn more about environmental education; here, for example, the programme has been called "The courage to embrace sustainability". It has, however, been taken up by less than five percent of all schools. KlimaExpo.NRW is without a doubt the most well-known project promoting environmental protection in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). It is calling on all institutions in NRW to present the ways they are attempting to curb global warming to a larger audience as well as to motivate others to join in. KlimaExpo.NRW would also like schools to play an active role here.





**Ready, steady, go!**  
The lucky winner of the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS' race was the person who sorted their waste first

A whole selection of stands were set up to teach the children about climate change – such as the Consumer Advice Centre's stand here



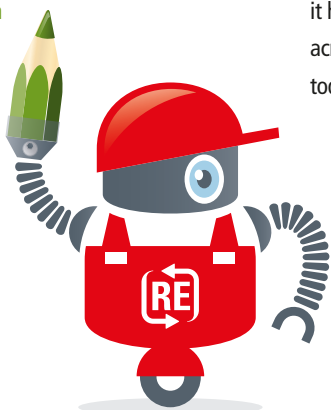
Which is why it decided to hold the NRW Climate Days for the first time this year – an event that also proved to be the perfect backdrop for organising the first ever Children's Climate Day. Both members of the Klimaschutz durch Kreislaufwirtschaft e.V. and the KlimaExpo.NRW associations took part – including REMONDIS and its RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS, the recycling firm Lobbe from Iserlohn, the NRW Consumer Advice Centre and the educational :metabolon project from the Rhineland region. The RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS kicked off the day with their educational theatre show to get everyone in the right mood. The children then moved outside splitting up into groups and going from one tent to the next (six in all) every 30 minutes. The RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS' offered its visitors a number of races as well as creativity and dexterity games. The Consumer Advice Centre organised various activities including a guessing game similar to one found on the kids' German TV programme '1,2 or 3' and Lobbe had brought along one of their waste collection vehicles for the children to look at.

The :metabolon project held a number of renewable energy experiments which the children were able to take part in. "It's incredible just how fast the kids come up with a good environmental solution. Which is all the more reason for passing on our knowledge to them as quickly as possible. The earlier they learn, the quicker they'll be able to come to grips with the situation in the future and become great ambassadors for all areas," commented Monika Lichtinghagen-Wirths, managing director of :metabolon. This project is based in the town of Leppe where it has created an extracurricular place of learning that is unique across Europe and is still being supported by the European Union today. Built on an old landfill site, this centre offers a whole range of educational programmes promoting environmental technology. Research centres, educational centres for schoolchildren and students and an Energy Competence Center are all open to visitors. It is not, however, just about learning – a large section of the grounds has also been dedicated to leisure and recreational activities for those wishing to relax.

Many eyes lit up when they saw the waste collection vehicle – especially the boys'

:metabolon – environmental technology inspiring both young and old

The RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS truly are a magnet for children



# Apprenticeships vital for the economy

632 YOUNG PEOPLE BEGIN THEIR CAREERS AT REMONDIS, RHENUS AND SARIA THIS YEAR – A TOTAL OF AROUND 2,000 APPRENTICES NOW WORKING AT THE GROUP

REMONDIS and its sister companies have taken on a record number of apprentices this year



Not long ago, the number of people applying for an apprenticeship job far exceeded the number that could be accepted. Those times are well and truly over. Nowadays, many employers must highlight the importance of apprenticeships to attract young people to their business – if they don't, they may find themselves facing a skills shortage in the future. REMONDIS, Rhenus and SARIA have got a good system in place here: they can offer young people starting out on their career a wide range of meaningful and sustainable jobs – from innovative recycling processes to protect the environment and curb global warming, to managing global logistics chains, all the way through to products and services for the bioindustry, a sector that is growing in importance all the time. It is, therefore, perhaps not a surprise that REMONDIS, Rhenus and SARIA have once again upped their efforts and increased their apprenticeship intake this year – with 632 new apprentices joining the three sister companies to carve out a career for themselves.

Whilst traditional industries are finding it more and more difficult to adapt to technological change, sectors such as recycling, logistics and the bioindustry are all strengthening their position on the marketplace – creating new jobs and playing an ever more important role in the economy. 250,000 people work within the German recycling sector alone, helping the country to achieve a more sustainable future and generating a total turnover across the country of around 70 billion euros. This development is also reflected in the apprenticeship figures at REMONDIS, the largest of the three sister companies. 394 new apprentices have joined

the company this year – “working for the future” to quote REMONDIS’ motto. All in all, this recycling, services and water company is helping a total of 1,185 young people to train for their new career, more than ever before. Looking across the whole of the Group, there are around 2,000 apprentices currently making the most of the apprenticeships on offer, 62 more than in the previous year. They have all been able to choose from around 50 different professions – from the fields of chemical, motor and environmental technology, to commerce, IT, electronics and industrial metal engineering, all the way through to logistics and a variety of craftsmanship skills.

On 01 August, at the beginning of the apprenticeship year, around 80 new apprentices were invited to the Lippe Plant, where they were officially welcomed to the company.







## REMONDIS at the YOU Exhibition in Berlin

The YOU Apprenticeship Fair took place in Berlin this year from 07 to 09 July. REMONDIS' Berlin branch and a number of its apprentices took part in the event to promote the various apprenticeship jobs on offer at the company as well as to present a modern front end loader refuse truck. Thanks to the great efforts made by REMONDIS' youngest members of staff and the RECYCLING PROFESSIONALS with their fun events, the com-

pany was able to awaken the interest of the young visitors in REMONDIS' wide-ranging selection of apprenticeship jobs. A fact that has also been reflected by the increase in the number of people from Berlin applying to do an apprenticeship at the company – in particular those wishing to train to become a professional truck driver or a management assistant in traffic, transport and logistics.

The front end loader refuse truck proved to be a real magnet. It demonstrated perfectly just how complex the technology and indeed the job of a truck driver is nowadays. REMONDIS would like to thank all those who helped to make the 2017 and 2018 apprenticeship initiatives such a success.

Once again, the list of the Top 3 professions at the group is headed by those wishing to become a professional truck driver (341 apprentices), followed by those training to become management assistants in freight forwarding and logistics (285 apprentices) and industrial management assistants (247 apprentices). The shortage of professional truck drivers across the country underlines just how important it is to attract newcomers to the sector. Around 25,000 new apprentice truck drivers will be needed every single year to cover the growing demand of the logistics industry. Many companies are having huge problems finding apprentice truck drivers, whose course is not limited to learning how to drive a lorry but includes planning, logistics, automotive and engine technology as well as all other facets of modern mobility.



REMONDIS presented its many interesting jobs at the YOU apprenticeship fair in Berlin – jobs that help make the future a more sustainable place

It has become a tradition to invite a number of the new apprentices to REMONDIS' head office and this year was no exception. On 01 August, they travelled to Lünen where they were welcomed to the company by Norbert Rethmann, who also stressed just how important it was for young people to have access to good apprenticeships. Both Norbert



Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Norbert Rethmann, giving his speech to some of the company's new apprentices in Lünen

Rethmann, honorary chairman of REMONDIS' supervisory board, and managing director Herwart Wilms took an optimistic look ahead – describing how sustainable and environmental topics, such as recycling and water, and municipal and industrial services coupled with smart logistics will be vital in a world that will soon be home to more than 10 billion people. The new apprentices have most certainly chosen professions that will enable them to promote sustainability and have a fulfilling career.



Those interested in starting an apprenticeship at REMONDIS in 2018 can learn more by going to [remondis-karriere.de](http://remondis-karriere.de)

# ORGANIC WASTE: still room for improvement!

MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT INTRODUCING ORGANIC WASTE BINS STILL PERSIST DESPITE CLEAR LEGISLATION

Whilst the discussions about organic waste bins are coming to a head in Karlsruhe, the Rhine Neckar District is taking its next step towards greater sustainability by building a new biogas plant. Across the country, all sorts of discussions are being held about how or whether to collect organic waste from households even though it has been compulsory to do so since 2015. Some local authorities are well aware of the advantages of increasing the volumes of organic waste they collect, while others continue to hang on in there and swim against the "green" tide. REMONDIS has also been playing its part setting up two new biogas plants.

## Environment Minister threatening to issue District of Karlsruhe with a decree

The Minister of the Environment responsible for the German state of Baden-Württemberg is obviously reaching the end of his tether: firstly, his Ministry has sent the district council a draft decree ordering them to collect organic waste separately from other waste streams. Secondly – and this is new – this threat is also targeted at the waste management business responsible for thermally treating the district's residual waste. The Ministry for the Environment has ordered the council to have a system in place that guarantees organic waste is collected separately by 01 January 2020 at the very latest. It has also ordered the operators of the waste incineration plant not to accept any

residual waste after this date if and as long as the district council continues to ignore the law. All waste management businesses are obliged by law to recycle and treat waste to the highest possible standard and this is, the Ministry argues, not the case when organic waste is sent for thermal treatment. This is the first time a ministry has taken such action against a local authority and a waste management business. "We believe that our actions are both legally permissible and necessary to ensure that the situation in the District of Karlsruhe reflects the law," commented Environment Minister Franz Untersteller.

"The plant will be able to handle greater volumes of local organic waste from the Rhine Main region which, in turn, means fewer materials need to be transported to plants located outside Hessen."

Benjamin Scheffler, FES Managing Director

## Green electricity soon to flow through the Rhine Neckar District

The Rhine Neckar District lies less than 60 kilometres north of Karlsruhe. In contrast, it recently gave the green light to AVR Bioterra to build a new organic waste digestion plant. The fact that REMONDIS Südwest GmbH bought a 49% share in AVR Bioterra in May also played an important role in this decision, as REMONDIS will be acting as the general contractor and will build the organic waste digestion plant for a fixed price.

Siegfried Rehberger will be representing REMONDIS in the new company as the managing director responsible for technology. Peter Mülbaier has been appointed the managing director in charge of commercial matters and will also be the spokesperson for the new public private partnership. "We are delighted to be part of this great project and to be able to contribute our experience as the largest recycling company in Germany," Siegfried Rehberger said when the contract was signed.

More detailed information about the advantages of public private partnerships, such as at FES and AVR Bioterra, can be found here:



The amount of organic waste collected in the Rhine Neckar District has been rising rapidly each year – from around 7,000 tonnes in 2011 to around 47,000 tonnes in 2015; experts believe this could soon increase to 60,000 tonnes. Thanks to the new organic waste digestion plant, the local authorities and REMONDIS will be making the very most of the economic and environmental advantages of this material stream.



Siegfried Rehberger, Managing Director REMONDIS Südwest, District Administrator Stefan Dallinger, Peter Mülbaier, Managing Director AVR UmweltService, and Thomas Drewer, Managing Director, REMONDIS Südwest, signing the contract

## Frankfurt to make the most of its organic waste

For the first time ever, organic waste collected in Frankfurt is going to be used to produce biomethane. Rhein-Main Biokompost GmbH (RMB), a fully owned FES subsidiary, is collaborating with Mainova, Frankfurt's largest energy provider, to transform raw biogas into biomethane so it can be fed into the gas supply network. In order to be able to achieve this goal, RMB's organic waste treatment plant is to be extended so that its capacity of 123,000 tonnes per year will be almost doubled. "By doing this, the plant will be able to handle greater volumes of local organic waste from the Rhine Main region which, in turn, means fewer materials need to be transported to plants located outside Hessen," explained FES managing director, Benjamin Scheffler. The energy provider Mainova is also building a new plant to process raw biogas, which is due to be commissioned at

the beginning of 2018. The biomethane will be enriched to have the same quality as natural gas before being fed into the Frankfurt gas network. "FES and Mainova are helping to drive forward the change from non-renewable to renewable energy by transforming organic waste into carbon-neutral gas," commented Norbert Breidenbach, Board Member of Mainova AG. RMB will continue to own the gas after it has been processed and will also be responsible for marketing it. Unlike natural gas, biomethane is not a fossil but a renewable fuel. Both the doubling of the capacity of RMB's plant and the increased demand for biomethane have meant that turning raw biogas into biomethane is not only environmentally but also economically more sensible than transforming it into electricity.





# REMONDIS honoured once again by KlimaExpo.NRW

REMONDIS' BUSINESS IN ERFSTADT PRESENTED WITH A CERTIFICATE FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS CURBING GLOBAL WARMING



Following in the footsteps of the Lippe Plant in Lünen, the waste sorting plant in Erfstadt (run by REMONDIS Rhineland since 2005) has officially been named by KlimaExpo.NRW as one of the best pioneering projects helping to prevent climate change. By producing secondary raw materials and fuels, the plant succeeds in reducing carbon emissions by between 70,000 and 80,000 tonnes every year.

The facility recovers recyclable materials, such as ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals and plastics, using e.g. magnet and eddy current separators and near infrared spectroscopy, and produces RDF from high calorific waste



quality-assured refuse-derived fuel (RDF) with defined properties, such as calorific and chlorine values. The RDF is used as an alternative source of energy by the nearby Berrenrath power station operated by RWE Power AG as well as by various cement works. Any residual materials left over after the sorting process are sent to waste incineration plants close by where they are used to generate energy.

A video of REMONDIS' branch in Erfstadt



The facility is one of the most innovative and most modern plants for sorting household and bulky waste to be found in Germany. A highly technical process is being used there to ensure the materials are sorted to a consistently high standard. What's more, the facility is also able to further process the recovered materials itself.

REMONDIS Rhineland's decision to produce refuse-derived fuel from local waste is not only having a positive impact on the environment but is also helping to prevent climate change. Each year, its operations reduce carbon emissions by between 70,000 and 80,000 tonnes. The whole supply chain is, for the most part, kept entirely within the region. The facility's convenient location also means the transport routes to other recycling plants are kept to an absolute minimum. Moreover, this combination of materials recycling, RDF production and waste-to-energy treatment has even succeeded in keeping down waste charges in the Rhine Eft District. The environmental and sustainable advantages of operating such a combination of activities have also been confirmed by the EU RECOMBIO project.

Besides recovering ferrous and non-ferrous metals, the plant also operates near infrared spectroscopy which automatically recognises and removes plastics so that they can be recycled for re-use. Once the materials have been sorted, the facility transforms non-recyclable waste into

# A model business from Cottbus

LWG Lausitzer Wasser GmbH & Co. KG not only specialises in providing water services, it also acts as a role model for the whole of our region. The City of Cottbus and many other surrounding districts are shareholders in LWG and they are all responsible for ensuring the business is run cost effectively. This has been a sensible and productive partnership for both sides for a long time now – united and on an equal footing.

The fact that LWG has always succeeded in finding innovative technical solutions to complex issues can, in particular, be put down to its private sector shareholder, EURAWASSER, which has been a part of the company for a good ten years now. It is very cost aware and this is reflected in the way it runs its business – something that benefits our communities as well.

LWG is also acting as a role model when it comes to apprenticeships. The whole state benefits here as the company’s training workshop not only teaches its own apprentice plant mechanics but also those from many other service providers in Brandenburg. One of the big challenges of the future will be to attract young and capable people to the water sector. I would like to wish everyone the best of luck in their endeavours here!



**Holger Kelch**  
Mayor of Cottbus and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of LWG Wasser Verwaltungs GmbH

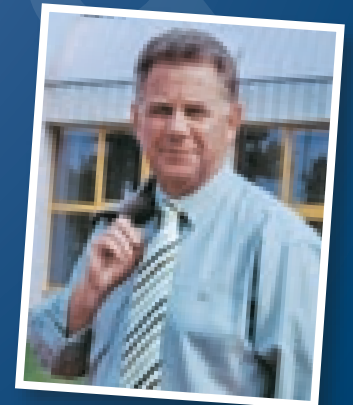
# A tried and tested model

LWG Lausitzer Wasser GmbH & Co. KG is one of just a handful of companies that has been able to keep its water rates stable over a long period of time. At the moment, our customers pay 1.22 euros (gross) for 1,000 litres of drinking water – for top quality water that is available 24/7. That is a mere 0.12 cents per litre! That’s pretty unbelievable really considering just how complex it is to produce drinking water and just how great the responsibility is to be able to continue to provide a reliable supply of top quality water in the future. And yet, LWG succeeds in doing this again and again to the complete satisfaction of its customers.

The business model with our private sector partner, EURAWASSER, has proven to be a great success over the last few years. LWG’s philosophy is to run a sustainable business – whilst always acting with sound judgement. Investments are always scrutinised to make sure they are cost effective. Efforts are always made to coordinate such plans with the cities and districts to fit in with their road construction projects. That cuts costs and ultimately keeps rates stable! Having a private sector shareholder in a municipal company does not normally lead to the business being run so as to make as big a profit as possible no

matter what the price but to it being run more cost effectively. Of course, a company wishes to (must) make a profit and that should be the aim of a municipal firm as well. I certainly believe that LWG’s business model has been a success – in the interests of our customers, our local residents!

**Fritz Handrow**  
Mayor of the District of Kolkwitz and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of LWG Wasser und Abwasser Verwaltungs GmbH



Source: 2016 annual report, LWG Lausitzer Wasser GmbH & Co. KG

# ENERVIE's new wind turbine in South Westphalia

REMONDIS AQUA'S ASSOCIATED COMPANY COLLABORATES WITH ISERLOHN UTILITIES BUSINESS TO INVEST IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

A new wind turbine has gone online in Lüdenscheid in the region of South Westphalia. Initiated and financed by the Stadtwerke Iserlohn (utilities company) and ENERVIE, the building and testing work on the turbine was successfully completed according to schedule – a spectacular sight, with a 600-tonne crawler crane gradually installing the 24 round concrete segments one by one. 46 metres of steel, consisting of two round components, were then added to the 87-metre concrete tower. All in all, the wind turbine (plus its rotor blades) now measures 195 metres from top to bottom and can be found on the edge of the Verse Dam.

The project began back in the summer of 2016 when Mark-E, a fully owned subsidiary of ENERVIE, and Stadtwerke Iserlohn founded the joint venture, Windkraft Versetalsperre GmbH & Co KG. Together, the two partners have invested around 5 million euros to build this three megawatt wind turbine. Situated on the windiest spot of the Verse Dam around 460 metres above sea level, they are expecting it to produce approx. 7.5 million kilowatt hours of green, environmentally friendly electricity every year. Enough power, therefore, to cover the needs of more than 2,000 average households. Looking at the current electricity mix in Germany, this wind turbine will reduce carbon emissions by ca. 110,000 tonnes over a 20-year period.

"Everyone involved in this project did an excellent job from start to finish. We now hope that the turbine's operations will run smoothly," commented Erik Höhne, ENERVIE board spokesman, summing up the work so far.

**"Everyone involved in this project did an excellent job from start to finish."**

Erik Höhne, ENERVIE Board Spokesman

## The Verse Dam wind turbine: a few facts & figures:

<b>Building work began:</b>	August 2016
<b>Building work ended / turbine commissioned:</b>	end of March 2017
<b>Investment sum:</b>	ca. 5 million euros
<b>Type of wind turbine:</b>	Enercon E-115
<b>Capacity:</b>	3 megawatts
<b>Total height:</b>	195 metres
<b>Expected power output / year:</b>	ca. 7.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh)
<b>Carbon emission savings / year*:</b>	ca. 5,500 tonnes
<b>Operator:</b>	Windkraft Versetalsperre GmbH & Co. KG

\*compared to the German electricity mix  
Source: ENERVIE – Südwestfalen Energie und Wasser AG

Mark-E developed and implemented the project itself with its own personnel and its own know-how. It was responsible for the whole of the infrastructure and monitored the building work every step of the way. Dr Klaus Weimer, managing director of Stadtwerke Iserlohn, and Erik Höhne joined representatives of all the companies involved in the construction work to see the key being handed over to officially open the turbine. The Enervie Group will continue to be in charge of the technical operations whilst the project financing and the commercial operations remain in the hands of Stadtwerke Iserlohn.



Both companies expect the wind turbine to produce

**7.5** million kilowatt hours of electricity

# Two sewage treatment plants for El Catllar

REMONDIS AQUA BUILDS A WASTEWATER SYSTEM FOR SPAIN'S LARGEST PRISON

El Catllar, a district just south of the Catalanian capital, Barcelona, is not only home to Spain's largest prison but also to REMONDIS Aqua's subsidiary, OMS SACEDE S.A.U. – which recently opened up a new office here.

On 24 April, Daniel Martinez, managing director of OMS SACEDE, was joined by the Catalanian Environmental Minister Josep Rull i Andreu and the Catalanian Justice Minister Carles Mundó to officially open two new sewage treatment facilities in the Spanish district of El Catllar. With the new Mas d'Enric prison expecting to take at least 1,000 prisoners in the future, the Catalanian water board (ACA) had decided to rebuild the district's sewage treatment plant for its 5,500 local residents. The increase in the local population would have stretched the old sewage treatment plant to its limits.

OMS SACEDE was awarded a contract back in November 2015 to plan and build two new sewage treatment plants in El Catllar and then to operate and maintain them for the first two years – succeeding, therefore, in further strengthening its position on the wastewater sector in Spain. Managing director, Daniel Martinez, was given a budget of just under 4 million euros to complete this work.

The first project involved building a biological wastewater treatment facility that uses the activated sludge process. It is located in the west of the district and will, therefore, also be used by the Mas d'Enric prison. The plant has the capacity to



treat 1,000m<sup>3</sup> a day. It is responsible for treating all wastewater from the more than 5,500 people living in El Catllar – i.e. both the local residents and the prisoners.

The second facility is, by comparison, much smaller and is situated in the east of the district. It, for example, is there to treat wastewater from the old part of the city. The plant consists of a so-called Imhoff tank for the first stage of the wastewater treatment and two biological IMP filters for the second stage. It has the capacity to treat 100m<sup>3</sup> a day and has been designed to handle wastewater generated by around 300 people.

Justice Minister of the autonomous region Catalonia, Carles Mundó i Blanch (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), together with representatives of the regional water board, ACA, at the opening of the first new wastewater treatment facility in El Catllar



Barcelona ●

El Catllar ●

Valencia ●

Carcaixent ●

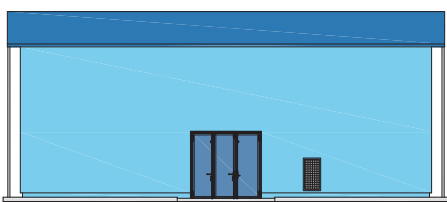
● REMONDIS Aqua's business locations



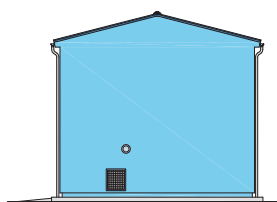
# For top quality water

NEW WATERWORKS IN GROSS BÄBELIN TO SUPPLY 5,500 LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH WATER FROM 2018 ONWARDS

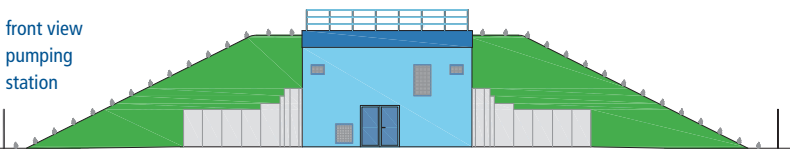
Wasserversorgungs- und Abwasserzweckverband Güstrow-Bützow-Sternberg (WAZ) and EURAWASSER Nord GmbH recently invited numerous guests to celebrate the laying of the first stone of the new waterworks in Groß Babelin. This important project is a further step towards completing the Krakow am See water concept with the plant due to be commissioned next summer.



front view waterworks



side view waterworks



front view  
pumping  
station

The new waterworks is being built in Krakow am See (near Seegrube-Ausbau) and will also include wash water settling basins and corresponding infiltration areas as well as a pressure station with two storage tanks (each with a capacity of 250m<sup>3</sup>) for screened water. Once it is up and running, the three waterworks in Krakow am See, Groß Babelin and Kuchelmiß will be closed down and their pipe networks connected to the new system. Thanks to this project, around 5,500 local residents will have a guaranteed supply of high quality drinking water. The costs for building the waterworks, including the pipes that have already been laid, are expected to amount to 4.6 million euros. Well aware of just how important this is for the region, a large number of guests accepted their invitation and made their way to the building site to celebrate this special occasion. District Administrator, Sebastian Constien, made special mention of the Mayor of Krakow am See, Wolfgang Geistert, and the Mayor of Dobbin-Linstow, Wilfried Baldermann, and underlined just how important this project was for the future of the region: "This new waterworks will solve the problem in the south of our district which is becoming an ever more popular holiday destination. The new supply of water will benefit both the local residents and the many tourists. It is a great pleasure for me to lay the very first stone of this building project – a project that will have such a positive impact on the whole of the region."



Work can begin on building the modern waterworks in Groß Babelin now that the eleven-kilometre water pipes have been laid around the north bank of the Krakower See [Krakow Lake]. The plant will be responsible for sourcing, transporting, processing and supplying drinking water to the town of Krakow am See as well as to the villages of Alt Sammit, Bossow, Charlottenthal, Groß Grabow, Klein Grabow, Möllen, Bellin, Marienhof, Dobbin, Linstow, Bornkrug, Groß Babelin, Klein Babelin, Zietlitz, Neu Dobbin, Kuchelmiß, Serrahn, Wilsen, Hinzenhagen, Neu Sammit and Steinbeck.



Thanks to the new waterworks, around

## 5,500 local residents

will have a guaranteed supply of high quality drinking water



**"A vision is finally becoming reality."**

Christian Grüşchow, Chairman of WAZ



### Long-standing plan finally implemented

The waterworks had become necessary due to the deterioration in the quality of the raw water sourced in Krakow am See. The wells there have been affected by the local moorland as well as by residue from a former garden centre, a timber processing business and a landfill. The presence of a salt dome made it impossible to use groundwater from deeper wells to produce drinking water.

"A vision is finally becoming reality," said Christian Grüşchow, chairman of WAZ, summing up the project, the biggest single investment ever made by the water association. Once the new waterworks has been built in Groß Bäbelin, it will be able to extract and process top quality water from wells around 125 metres below ground. Tests carried out have revealed that there were no environmental factors impacting negatively on the water. "The first well was built back in 2006 to enable us to check the quality of the water over a long-term period."

Robert Ristow, managing director of EURAWASSER, gave a detailed description of the future project: "The three new filter basins will not only be able to cover the current demand for water but that of the future, too, when the number of tourists coming to our region is expected to rise. Emergency generators will be installed to guarantee water can continue to be processed and fed into the network even in the case of a short power cut. The new waterworks will have the capacity to process and supply 1,200 cubic metres of drinking water – or 1.2 million litres – every single day. There is, however, still a way to go before we reach that point."

### Traditional groundbreaking ceremony

These informative speeches were followed by the emotional highlight – the symbolic act of laying the foundation stone. A copper time capsule containing technical data, plans, coins and a newspaper was embedded into the foundations. Together, the guests of honour used a bricklayer's trowel to fill the space in the slab – accompanied by the applause of all those around them. This traditional ceremony was a great start to the project and everyone in WAZ's region is looking forward to seeing the final result.

(from left to right) Robert Ristow, Managing Director of EURAWASSER Nord GmbH, Sebastian Constien, Rostock District Administrator, Katja Gödke, Managing Director of Wasserversorgungs- und Abwasserzweckverband Güstrow-Bützow-Sternberg (WAZ), Christian Grüşchow, Chairman of Wasserversorgungs- und Abwasserzweckverband Güstrow-Bützow-Sternberg (WAZ), Wilfried Baldemann, Mayor of Dobbin-Linstow



# From a safe distance

## BUCHEN DEVELOPS A ROBOTIC SOLUTION FOR THEIR AUTOMATED JET WASHING SYSTEMS

**BUCHEN®**

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

Health and safety play a pivotal role at BUCHEN – which is why the company places such importance on developing its own technology to further improve safety standards. Thanks to its latest innovation, a robot with an automated high pressure jet washer, the company has once again improved the working conditions for their industrial cleaning specialists.

No matter whether it be oil refineries, chemical businesses or heavy industry: if their machines need cleaning, then high pressure water jet systems with handheld lances are often deployed to perform the work. This carries a number of risks for the industrial cleaning experts – firstly because the water jet is so powerful and secondly because the spray generated obscures their vision. What's more, there is the added uncertainty of the potential risks of the product residue and hazardous substances dislodged by the process.

These were, therefore, all good reasons for BUCHEN Umwelt-Service to look at and improve the technology being used. The company's own technology department spent a good three years developing a robot that enabled high pressure jet cleaning work to be fully automated. The result: its automated industrial cleaner (AIC).

### Upgraded equipment = greater safety

At the heart of this AIC system is an industrial robot, the first in the world to be adapted to carry out mobile industrial cleaning work using high pressure technology. The system is also equipped with a waterproof, chemical-resistant protective suit. The robot is controlled with a joystick – by an operator sitting in the control centre (container) well away from the danger zone. The patent-pending AIC and its controls are operated intuitively by the person in charge. An additional concept monitoring the area of work and preventing the machine from being damaged makes it even safer to handle.

### Perfectly adapted to its area of use

The industrial cleaning specialists use a panel to control the AIC's high pressure jet washer and can alter it to meet the local conditions by selecting the most suitable pre-defined program. Alternatively, they can program the exact movements the robot should take or take full control of the jet nozzles themselves by using the joystick.

In order to extend the areas it can be used in, a number of different cleaning tools can be attached to the arm of the robot. These include surface cleaners, spray bars and pipe washer heads as well as a nozzle similar to a manual high pressure lance. The distance it should be from the actual part being cleaned can be entered into the system beforehand and depends on how much dirt needs to be removed. All these different options make it an extremely flexible system that can be adapted to meet the customers' exact requirements.

### Safe work & excellent results

There are a whole host of advantages to deploying this robot. First and foremost, it further improves safety levels. All the potential risks operatives may face in the danger zone simply

A really safe working environment: the automated industrial cleaner developed by BUCHEN to carry out high pressure jet cleaning work

No matter what the field, BUCHEN relies on equipment that provides an ergonomic working environment and guarantees the highest levels of work safety

no longer apply as they do not need to enter the area. At the same time, the ongoing physical strain of manual cleaning work is reduced. This is especially true when it comes to the powerful recoil caused by the high pressure jet. Industrial cleaning specialists working with handheld high pressure lances have to cope with a recoil of 15 kilogrammes and this increases to 25 kilogrammes if they are using jets that have a shoulder support. In contrast, the AIC system is effectively a back-friendly "desk job" in an air-conditioned container where they can carry out their work safely either sitting or standing.

The AIC uses a ratio of pressure and water volume that produces particularly effective cleaning results. When used to clean surfaces, for example, it achieves a water throughput of up to 190 litres a minute at a pressure of 1,000 bar.

**"The high performance achieved by the AIC is an important add-on – and further underlines our belief that high work safety standards always benefit the quality and cost-effectiveness of our work."**

Kevin Seik, BUCHEN UmweltService's head office technology department

Moreover, the same high quality cleaning results are reached as the distance between the jet and the part being cleaned remains the same throughout. The mobility of the robot creates further advantages – especially for cleaning work which operatives would have to do overhead or from an elevated position. Kevin Seik from BUCHEN UmweltService's head office technology department commented: "The high performance achieved by the AIC is an important add-on – and further underlines our belief that high work safety standards always benefit the quality and cost-effectiveness of our work."

Certification in accordance with ISO:9001, SCCP and OHSAS 18001 – health and safety are extremely important at BUCHEN



Cleaning by hand with a handheld high pressure jet. The operatives must cope with a recoil of around 15 kilogrammes the whole time they are using the equipment. This problem is eliminated with the robot

What was really important for BUCHEN was to develop a process that was easy to use: the system is operated intuitively and has a joystick that controls the robot's axles so that the jets can be placed exactly where they are needed



# Beautiful homes in Nacka Strand, Stockholm

SCAFFOLDING SPECIALISTS XERVON HELP TO BUILD TOP QUALITY FLATS JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM THE CITY CENTRE

**XERVON**®

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

This is seaside living at its best: a number of exclusive flats are currently being built in Nacka Strand – right on the water's edge and with a spectacular view of the marina and the city. REMONDIS' subsidiary, XERVON, is responsible for the complex task of erecting the scaffolding and providing protection against the weather for this major building project.



Built in the 90s and situated on the Baltic Sea entrance to Stockholm, the office building is currently being transformed into exclusive flats



XERVON's scaffolding division is well known for always being able to deliver the number of personnel and volumes of material needed

Stockholm is considered to be among the prettiest of the world's cities. Commonly known as the Venice of the North, the Swedish capital offers an attractive mixture of urban life and unspoiled nature that is not only attracting an ever growing number of people wishing to visit the city but also wishing to live there. This gradual increase in the city's population has meant that there is also a growing demand for new homes. One of the solutions has been to strengthen the links between the city centre and its immediate surroundings by improving ferry services, bus routes and the underground network. One example is the Municipality of

Nacka, which lies just outside the city of Stockholm and effectively connects the capital to the 30,000 islands and islets – known as skerries – in the Baltic Sea.

268 new flats are currently being built in Nacka Strand, all of which will have a modern layout, contemporary furnishings and a view of Stockholm. An old office building, with a total floor space of around 44,500 square metres, is gradually being transformed into attractive residential homes. Work is to be carried out on the outside of the building throughout – with new windows needing to be installed, balconies built and a twelfth floor added for the penthouse flats. This major project, which began in 2016 and is due to last until 2019, was initiated by Skanska Sverige, one of Sweden's leading property developers, together with the US private equity firm, Carlyle. All in all, the partners are expecting to invest 123 million euros in this venture.

All in all, this project required

**15,000m<sup>2</sup>** and **8,000m<sup>2</sup>**  
scaffolding material weather protection

### XERVON Sweden AB

XERVON Sweden AB is one of the leading scaffolding businesses in Sweden. Based in Stockholm-Kungsängen, it has branches in Gothenburg, Karlstad, Norrköping and Örebro. It primarily serves customers operating in the fields of infrastructure, construction, chemicals and petrochemicals as well as the energy sector.

[xervon.se](http://xervon.se)

### Complex scaffolding requirements

The building's outstanding location – right next to the Baltic Sea and the marina – will certainly add greatly to its appeal and make it a very desirable place to live. It is, however, making some construction work more difficult. This is especially true for the scaffolding work which is the responsibility of XERVON Sweden AB. XERVON project manager Jacob Holm explained: "The sheer size of the project, the height of the building and its location next to the water have all created a whole number of technical challenges. It is, for example, very much exposed to the elements which means we have to take all of the forces caused by wind and weather into account." This is particularly true for the gigantic structure that has been erected almost 35 metres above the ground to protect the building against the weather. This protection was essential: it would have been impossible to add the new penthouse floor without it.

Organising the logistics also proved to be a challenge, as the construction site is right in the centre of a residential area. In order to make sure their work impacted as little as possible on normal city life, XERVON decided to deliver the 15,000m<sup>2</sup> of scaffolding material and the 8,000m<sup>2</sup> of weather protection in the early hours of the morning where cranes were then used to hoist them into position.

### Partners from the very start

Planning work on the project began more than twelve months before the actual building work started and XERVON has been involved from the very first moment. The company has arranged for between 12 and 16 experienced operatives to be on site throughout the whole of the construction phase. Jacob Holm continued: "We have succeeded in finding the best and most effective solution no matter how complicated the task. This can be put down to our know-how and experience and, of course, to the successful way our two firms have worked together." The first families will be able to move into their new flats in the summer of 2018 – in this idyllic setting right next to the skerries and yet still so close to the vibrant city of Stockholm.

Experts for specialist solutions: the building's exposed location meant complex calculations and a special design were needed to make it structurally safe

The old office complex is being turned into 268 new flats, each with a balcony, large windows and a spectacular view of the water



# A series of films about recycling minerals

REMEX PUBLISHES A SERIES OF VIDEOS FOR ALL THOSE WISHING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW MINERALS ARE RECYCLED

A picture is worth a thousand words – and this is especially true when the pictures are part of an interesting film. The REMEX Group, a REMONDIS company, is well aware of this and has made a series of videos to explain all about its various operations. Top of the list is its video “Five plants in less than three minutes”, which is available in three languages and gives a brief overview of the company’s mineral recycling activities.

The film demonstrates how mineral substances are recycled and highlights just how important this work is. Images are shown of REMEX’s German plants in Erfstadt, Krefeld and Oberhausen as well as of its facilities in Singapore and Sluiskil in the Netherlands. Together, these five locations have the capacity to recycle around two million tonnes of material every single year.

PRODUCTION REMEX

DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_

CAMERA \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SCENE \_\_\_\_\_

TAKE \_\_\_\_\_



A film has also been made of REMEX's state-of-the-art recycling plant in Singapore, a flagship project across the whole of Asia

### Learning about the processes & technology

The video includes some spectacular images, many of which are aerial views shot using camera drones. The clever combination of pictures and commentary makes it easy for the viewers to understand what the business is all about and shows the different processes used. This is a great way for people, who have never had the opportunity to tour such a recycling plant, to take a closer look at the complex technology.

### Top quality recycled aggregate

Besides illustrating how these facilities recover valuable metals, the video also focuses on how the company produces recycled aggregate – a product which is primarily used to build roads. It explains how REMEX produces this material by processing incinerator bottom ash from municipal waste incineration plants at its different facilities. The five locations were selected to illustrate the group's wide-ranging operations – all in all, REMEX has over 60 branches across Europe and Asia.

### Impressions of processes & products

This company video with its images of the five plants is not the only film that has been made. REMEX has produced a whole series of films about recycling minerals. These include, for example, a piece about waste management at the Dutch facility, HEROS Sluiskil. B.V., a video of the inauguration ceremony of REMEX's recycling plant in Singapore in 2015 and a film about how the company monitors its materials and processes around the globe.

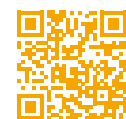
Many of the videos focus on the company's recycling processes and technology

Moreover, an informative animated film (available in four languages) explains how the recycled aggregate granova® is produced. All films – including the latest 3D impressions of the company's technology – can be viewed online on REMEX's own YouTube channel.

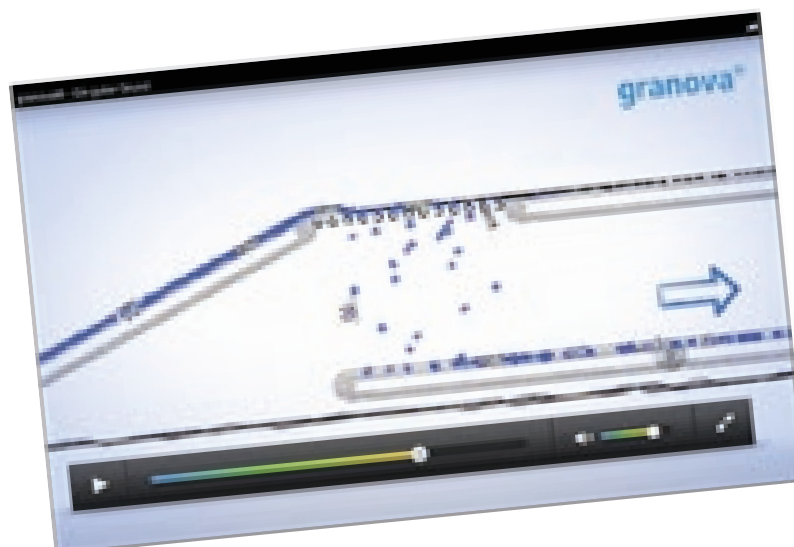
### Greater public awareness

"We decided to make these films because there's been so much interest in our operations both here at home and abroad. Our goal here has been to make the most of this medium – combining image and sound – to make it easier for people to understand subjects such as how recycled aggregate is produced," explained Astrid Onkelbach, head of product management and marketing at REMEX Mineralstoff GmbH in Düsseldorf.

What has also become clear is that it is not only the professionals and the trade associations that are interested in the whole subject of recycling minerals. "We are getting more and more inquiries from the public sector and from local residents wishing to find out about how mineral waste is handled and recycled," Astrid Onkelbach concluded. The REMEX films are, therefore, helping to fill this gap here, too.



REMEX's YouTube channel



## 3 million tonnes of waste recycled

REMONDIS Thermische Abfallverwertung GmbH, aka RETA, recently processed its 3,000,000th tonne of waste at its plant in Staßfurt – exactly 3,520 days since the facility was first commissioned. “This is a great milestone and a real incentive for our 61 employees to continue their great work, ensuring waste is treated using environmentally friendly processes,” commented Karen Michael, head of logistics at RETA. The fact that this milestone had been reached so quickly could be put down to the excellent collaboration between the logistics, plant and maintenance departments, she continued. To date, the thermal treatment in Staßfurt has produced 1 million tonnes of soda, generated enough electricity to meet the annual requirements of 300,000 households and recovered 840,000 tonnes of reusable mineral material and 50,000 tonnes of metal scrap. All in all, RETA’s operations have cut carbon emissions by 950,000 tonnes.



Karen Michael, Head of Logistics at RETA (left) and Tino Kirst, responsible for operating the weighing equipment at RETA (right), also congratulated driver Jörg Barth (centre) for delivering the 3,000,000th tonne of waste to the plant

“This is a real incentive for our 61 employees to continue their great work, ensuring waste is treated using environmentally friendly processes.”

Karen Michael, Head of Logistics at RETA

## AWISTA out in force for the Grand Départ



AWISTA had much to do in Düsseldorf on 01 and 02 July. Their task: to manage the waste and keep the city clean during the Grand Départ, the start of the 2017 Tour de France. Many AWISTA employees could be seen carrying

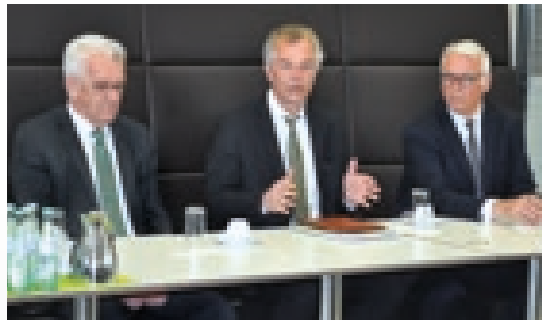
out their work on the streets of Düsseldorf – especially at night and in the early hours of the morning – to make sure everything went smoothly. They had to work to a very tight schedule to make sure that the area that had been cordoned off for the world’s most famous bike race was ready on time: around 1,000 bins had to be set up throughout the area as well as along the course. In addition, an extra 400 bins had to be placed in parks and on the roads the public would use to get to the event. During the race itself, the AWISTA employees then removed any waste that began stacking up – especially replacing full bin bags with empty ones, a non-stop job. These bags were then stored in over 40 skips at the 20 collection points that had been set up beforehand all around the venue – it would have been impossible to use collection trucks during the day with the streets so busy.



## Minister President of Baden-Württemberg and former environment minister of North Rhine-Westphalia visit the Lippe Plant in Lünen

Winfried Kretschmann, Minister President of the German state of Baden-Württemberg, and Johannes Rimmel, former environment minister of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, travelled to Lünen at the beginning of May to visit the Lippe Plant. The two politicians, both members of the German Green Party, are well aware of the importance of recycling and its contribution towards protecting the environment and curbing global warming – and so they made the most of this opportunity to discuss the subject with REMONDIS board member, Thomas Conzendorf, and Andreas Bankamp, managing director of REMONDIS Aqua. Accompanied by a large delegation of party members and journalists, they first went on a tour around the plant to see the latest recycling technology for themselves. During the subsequent press conference, both Winfried Kretschmann and Johannes Rimmel made it clear just how impressed they were by the employment statistics and the capabilities of the sector and the Lippe Plant – the largest industrial recycling centre in Germany.

Michael Zolda, REMONDIS West GmbH, Dr Martin Lebek, REMONDIS Aqua, Dr Werner Kook, REMONDIS Assets & Services, Dr Ansgar Fendel, REMONDIS Assets & Services, Winfried Kretschmann, Minister President Baden-Württemberg, Thomas Conzendorf, REMONDIS Board Member, Andreas Bankamp, REMONDIS Aqua



During the press conference, Johannes Rimmel and Winfried Kretschmann made it clear just how impressed they were by the Lippe Plant



## NEG opens its new head office in Weißwasser

At the end of June, Andreas Lysk, managing director of Niederschlesische Entsorgungsgesellschaft (NEG), was joined by Norbert Rethmann to officially open NEG's new head office in Weißwasser. The building project had proven to be a great success with the contractors finishing according to schedule and keeping within budget. During the official opening ceremony, Andreas Lysk once again thanked all the companies involved for their great collaboration work. Practically all of the building work had been carried out by local businesses from the District of Görlitz. Nine months were needed to complete the modern, flat-roofed building containing offices and staff rooms as well as the new hall and workshop for the vehicles. The 28 employees were really pleased with their new working environment. As Norbert Rethmann stressed, this was one of the main reasons for deciding to invest in this project.

"One of the biggest challenges of the next decade will be to recruit staff and it will be even more difficult if the working environment is not right," he said, taking a look into the future.



Norbert Rethmann with Andreas Lysk, Managing Director of NEG, at the opening of the new head office in Weißwasser



New and modern: 28 employees very much appreciate their improved working environment



# REMONDIS donates vacuum truck to refugees living in Iraq

AN IMPORTANT WAY TO IMPROVE HYGIENE IN THE 'RUHRGEBIET REFUGEE CAMP'

**REMONDIS®**  
WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

One of the strategies that is often put forward as a possible solution to the current refugee crisis is to tackle the problems in the countries where the people are staying so that they don't need to move on in the first place. Besides combatting poverty, this also means improving the living conditions of those people who – while they have been forced to flee their homes to escape war and persecution – would prefer not to travel to Europe but stay as close as possible to their homeland. More often than not, this involves focusing on supposedly mundane matters such as hygiene in the refugee camps which literally appear overnight. The "Ruhrgebiet Refugee Camp" [Flüchtlingsdorf Ruhrgebiet] is run by the Caritas Flüchtlingshilfe Essen, a charity organisation set up to help refugees, and is already doing an excellent job. What they needed, however, was a vacuum truck to improve hygiene at the camp. REMONDIS was able to help out here with a donation.

On 17 May, Thorsten Feldt, a managing director at REMONDIS, presented Caritas Flüchtlingshilfe Essen (CFE) with a vacuum truck that was fully functional and in a very good condition. Its destination was the "Ruhrgebiet Refugee Camp" in the autonomous region of Kurdistan in the north of Iraq. At the beginning of 2015, CFE began setting up container homes for Yazidi refugee families on a developed area of land. Since then, CFE have delivered over 100 container homes thanks to donations from local authorities, firms and private individuals from the Ruhr region. These and a further approx. 1,700 container homes from other organisations now give the refugees a place where they can live in decent conditions. CFE has also organised two bazaars for tradespeople (with over 60 shops)

to provide work for those living in the camp. Moreover, it has been collaborating with the German company GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) to set up two schools and a small hospital, with all the furnishings having been supplied by CFE. Construction work is currently being carried out on a youth centre, a vocational training centre and a small advisory centre for people traumatised by their experiences. What's more, a sports ground is being built so that the more than 5,000 children and adolescents living there have somewhere to do sport.

## In action to improve hygiene

What had been missing, however, was a vacuum truck that was robust enough to cope with the dusty conditions there. REMONDIS has now donated a twenty-tonne vacuum truck so that faecal matter and wastewater can be removed – a vital task to maintain hygiene levels at the camp. The camp management team had put in a request for such a truck many times and CFE found a sympathetic ear at REMONDIS. The Mayor of Essen, Thomas Kufen, who had also been championing this cause and had travelled to Iraq with CFE last year, attended the event in Essen to see the truck being officially handed over. It is already being used at the refugee camp having made its own way there via Turkey – the only time it wasn't being driven was when it took the ferry from Trieste to Mersin.

**"Besides helping the refugees living here in Germany to integrate into society and find jobs by supporting apprenticeship initiatives, we are really pleased to be able to make this small but important contribution towards improving living conditions on the ground in Iraq."**

Thorsten Feldt, REMONDIS Managing Director

# > Impressions



◀ Dr Bernd Althussmann, Head of the CDU Parliamentary Group in the Lower Saxony State Parliament (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), travelled to Oldenburg to meet Arend Cobi, Head of Municipal Sales REMONDIS Nord, Heinz Maurus, Public Affairs REMONDIS, and Georg Jungen, Managing Director REMONDIS Nord (from left to right)

REMONDIS Board Member Ludger Rethmann welcomed David McAllister, Member of the European Parliament (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Marco Morten Pufke, District Chairman of the CDU Party Unna (4<sup>th</sup> from left), and Annette Droege-Middel, Head of the CDU Party in Lünen, to the Lippe Plant. They had been invited to Lünen by Andreas Bankamp, Managing Director REMONDIS Aqua (right), Wilhelm Jasperneite, Municipal Sales REMONDIS West (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Jonas Graßhoff, Project Consultant REMONDIS Energy & Services



▲ Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the REMONDIS Group, welcoming the new apprentices to Lünen



▲ Herwart Wilms, REMONDIS Managing Director (left), and Christian Monreal, Public Affairs (right), welcoming Eckhard Kneisel, Chairman of the Green Party in Lünen (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Katharina Dröge, German MP and Member of the Green Party (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), and Mona Naubaur, Chairwoman of the Green Party for the German state of NRW

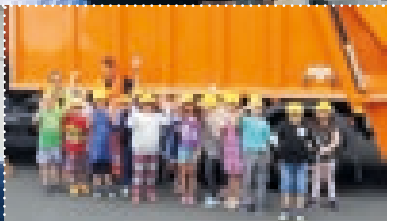


▲ REMONDIS' Langenfeld branch provided the backdrop for a TV programme broadcast by the WDR channel. Here, branch manager Thomas Tölle welcomes presenter Yvonne Williks and her team to the company

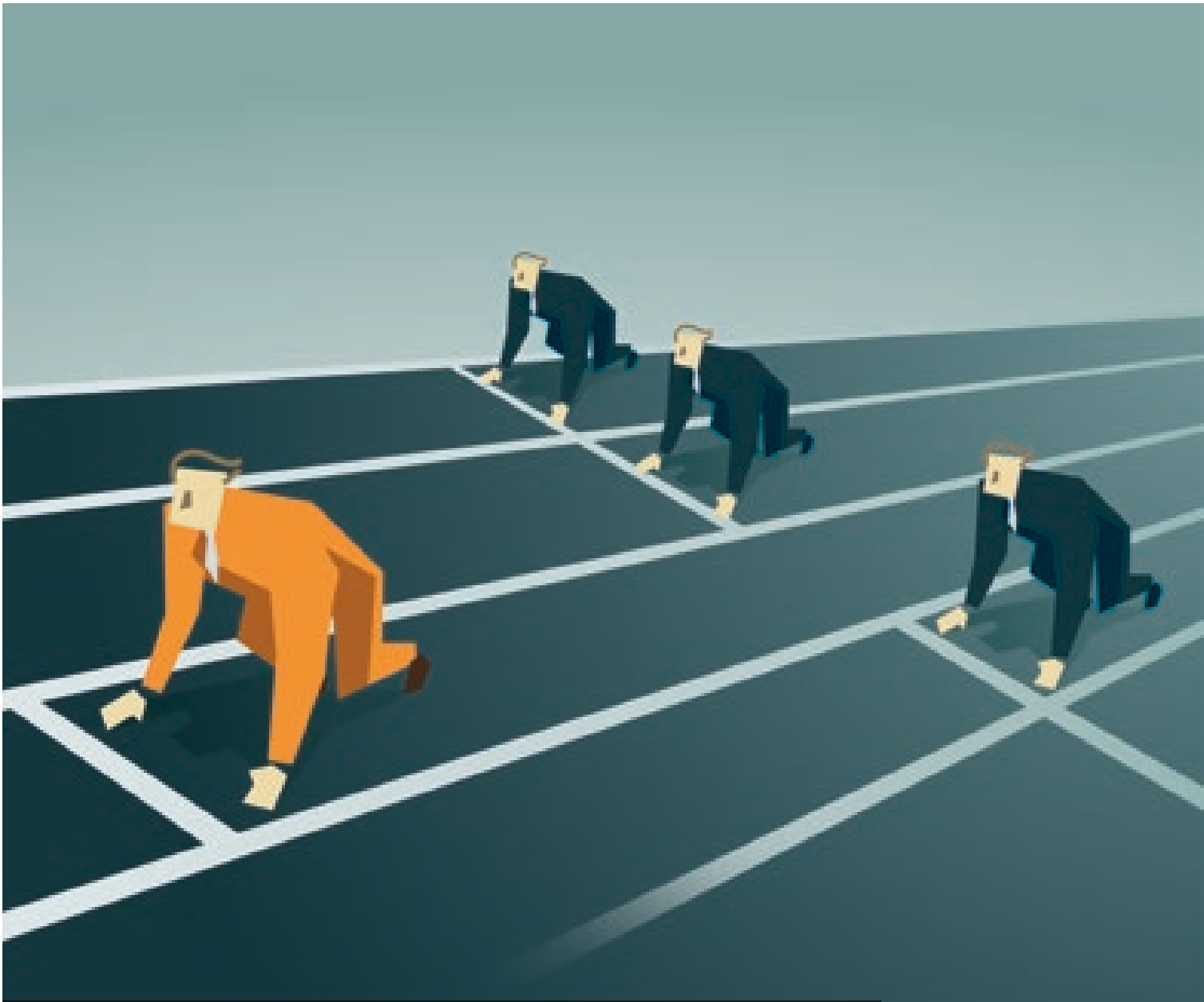


◀ REMONDIS' Rhein-Wupper branch helped to make the first leg of the Tour de France a success. The team there set up 35 large containers to store waste, 39 containers filled with construction waste to act as roadblocks and 750 portable toilets. 10 drivers and a dispatcher were on duty throughout the event

▲ Six REMONDIS apprentices and recently qualified apprentices and apprenticeship manager Christina Rehahn (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) were honoured by the Chamber of Commerce for the work they have done, travelling to schools to promote higher apprenticeships



▲ REMONDIS supported SUEZ's 'Blicki Blickt's' campaign this summer to teach children road safety



## Fair competition is something quite different

It is so important to have competition in the recycling sector! This ensures that local residents receive top quality services for a fair price – because different service providers compete with each other. Some municipal businesses have been granted tax privileges by the German tax authorities. Although such companies are themselves financed by fees and public funds, they do not have to charge VAT. That's certainly not fair competition. It's definitely time for a change!