

New Layher hot-dip galvanizing facility up and running

GÜGLINGEN-EIBENSBACH. After a construction period of just 10 months, Layher put into operation a new hot-dip galvanizing facility in March. Thanks to this facility, the system scaffolding specialist not only guarantees the quality of its products and its delivery capability, but also safeguards jobs in the region.

For decades now, the range of products and services offered by Wilhelm Layher GmbH & Co. KG has included high-quality scaffolding systems and a comprehensive service package. Included in the above is the high delivery capability of all items, which are callable "just-in-time" whenever needed, allowing even surprise or major orders to be started and handled on schedule – a crucial competitive edge in the field of scaffolding construction.

In order to assure this service in the future too, Layher has for years been investing significantly in new production facilities at its headquarters in Eibensbach in Swabia – a clear declaration of its commitment to the region and to Germany as a production location. Within the framework of a three-point expansion plan, aluminium and wood production is being transferred to neighbouring Güglingen. At the headquarters in Eibensbach, production of steel components can thus be centralized and expanded, and this includes a second, highly modern hot-dip galvanizing facility.

The steel scaffolding systems are hot-dip-galvanized in this facility. This is a tried-and-tested and at the same time modern corrosion protection process, in which the products are dipped in molten zinc. This process protects the steel from corrosion by atmospheric exposure and air pollutants, thereby greatly prolonging its service life and durability. For this reason, Layher has already been hot-dip-

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galvanizing all its steel products since 1965. This process is a multiple-stage immersion process: first the products are subjected to intensive cleaning in various baths to remove oil and grease residues, rust and scale, and also to surface treatment. This increases the wetting power with the zinc. After a drying phase in a special oven, the steel products are finally immersed in the molten zinc and thereby galvanized.

The new facility was constructed with a useful area of approx. 10,000 square metres according to state-of-the-art technology: the galvanizing oven is computer-controlled and operates extremely efficiently by means of selected process engineering. Thanks to cutting-edge crane technology, the material is transported fully automatically through the entire galvanizing process. To ensure environmentally compatible operation, Layher adhered during the construction phase to the stringent stipulations of the German Federal Immission Control Act, which makes the highest demands on protection against air, noise and waste water emissions.

80,000 tons of steel products can now be hot-dip-galvanized per year and protected for a long time against environmental effects before they leave the factory on their way to customers across the globe. And at the same time Layher is safeguarding jobs in the region in the long term.

Wilhelm Layher GmbH & Co. KG is the largest manufacturer of system scaffolding in Europe and has been producing exclusively in Germany since it was founded in 1945. The company now employs over 1,100 people internationally: 700 in Germany and a further 400 at its 30 subsidiaries on five continents.

For further information on the company and on the versatile scaffolding systems made by Layher, visit www.layher.com.