

Successful Change

A traditional glassworks sets foot in the free market with the help of most modern technology.

The Piesau glassworks has stood on this site since 1622 and is newly equipped to compete in the world market.

Entry into the free market has proved successful for Piesau Glassworks. Integration into the west German Heinz Glass Group and modernization has turned this eastern German glassmaker into a competitive presence in the international market.



Reliable vacuum is needed for the packing equipment

Making and working glass have a long tradition in the Thuringian Forest and one such typical works has stood in Piesau since 1622. The combination of fundamental know-how and long tradition, together with the resources to re-equip with modern plant in 1991, made possible the transition from a communistic to a market-driven enterprise. Integration into the Heinz Group has opened doors to markets and opportunities which the Piesau team have taken full advantage of, forging business links with renowned German and international customers.

Specialists in small glass containers.

With a workforce of about 185, the company is the largest employer in the area and specializes in small glass hollow-ware for cosmetics and foodstuffs and also gift articles. As well as clear glass they are able, with the same tooling, to quickly change over to opaque or colored glass production. Various finishing processes, such as acid etching, spraying and silk-screen printing, can also be offered. With about 40% of production going for export, Piesau Glassworks has proved its international competitiveness and competence.

High capacity

In the glassworks, a 50 ton and a 100 ton melting furnace feed Individual Station (IS) machines! which use the single, double and triple-drop process to produce blown, press-blown and pressed vessels in the weight range 12 to 750 g and with a contents range of 5 to 1000 ml.

Large air demand

The melting furnaces run on electricity and gas but compressed air is the main energy medium for the processing machines. Installed in Piesau at present are five IS machines with a total of 40 individual operating stations, each of which needs 3.5 m³ of compressed air per minute. Air is also used for gas valve control, bulk material transport, operating flaps etc., and vacuum is needed for handling, packing and transport equipment.



Compressed air is vital to the 40 hollow glassware production stations.

Compressed air is also used as a control medium in the melting furnaces.

Screw compressor and vacuum packages in the "air center".

Air center

In the newly installed air center, seven FS, ES and DS KAESER compressors provide air for the 5 bar air main, and two smaller KS models provide control air at 6 bar. Vacuum is generated by three KAESER BSV 100 screw vacuum packages and air treatment is by refrigeration dryers and filters. The whole air center is linked by bus technology and underoverall control of a "Vesis" master controller to form an integrated, economic and reliable energy system.

Commercially decisive

For technical director Faiko Kaestner, the efficiency of the KAESER system is convincing: "Thanks to the good performance and optimized workload of the compressors I anticipate an early payback on investment. An essential improvement in efficiency and reliability was brought by significantly improved ventilation of the air center. The service provided by KAESER is second to none; they provide skilled help quickly when we need them."

The production program includes glass containers for food and cosmetics as well as decorative articles.

