

## Press Release

Simmern, June, 2018

### **ERO celebrates plant opening**

**ERO GmbH has invested over €20 million in its new production plant in Simmern. The plant was officially unveiled on Monday with the Rhineland-Palatinate Economics Minister Dr. Volker Wissing and 400 guests from business, politics and the ERO company present.**

Just under two years after the cornerstone was laid, ERO GmbH celebrated the opening of the new plant in the Industriepark West in Simmern. "Today is an especially memorable day for us and we are delighted that all of you have taken the time to celebrate opening the new plant with us," said ERO managing director Michael Erbach to the guests.

The manufacturer of vineyard devices had invited political representatives, construction companies and neighboring companies. A special ceremony with employees marked the grand opening of the plant.

Minister of Economics Dr. Volker Wissing emphasized the importance of medium-sized family businesses to the state: "Rooted in the Hunsrück and at home in world markets. This is ERO's recipe for success and is an example of our successful medium-sized enterprises. Companies such as ERO create innovative products used in our state of Rhineland-Palatinate while also in demand on international markets. They secure jobs in the region and supply important machines for our local winemakers and farmers. Last but not least, as Rhineland-Palatinate Minister of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture, I am impressed by how these areas overlap here at ERO. These show: Rhineland-Palatinate is a strong agricultural location and the no. 1 wine state in Germany, and, at the same time, home to the leading companies in the agricultural machinery industry. These site characteristics provide a promising foundation. All of this served as a firm foundation for the company's successful history", added Wissing.

The new company buildings are impressive: The premises has a total of 120,000 square meters, of which 77,000 have been built up. The production hall alone covers more than 15,000 square meters. In addition, there are warehouses in the outdoor area, 2,200 square meters of office space and the approximately 700 square meter customer center with presentation and training rooms.

The production halls are equipped with seven overhead cranes, each with a payload of up to 10 tons, and more than 40 swivel cranes. Where necessary, the halls are equipped with air extraction systems which exchange the room air completely four times per hour.

The entire set of buildings optimizes energy consumption and comply with the KfW 55 standard. Electricity is generated by a combined heat and power unit

whose waste heat is used for heating the newly purchased powder coating plant. A photovoltaic system is installed on the roof. Only LED lamps were installed. A centrally controlled data bus system for managing all data streams in the company also further optimizes energy consumption.

The German Bundestag MPs Carina Konrad (FDP) and Peter Bleser (CDU), as well as the Vice-President of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Parliament Hans-Josef Bracht were impressed by the new company building.

The total investment of more than €20 million was supported by the Rhineland-Palatinate through the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) with a €1.5 million grant. This support for the state and the region has already paid off because ERO has already met the condition of creating 40 new jobs.

The public will also soon have the opportunity to visit the new plant: On July 29, the company will open its doors to customers, friends and interested visitors in the region under the slogan "Let's get started!"

#### ERO GmbH

With 220 employees and annual revenue of €32 million (2017), ERO GmbH numbers among the largest manufacturers of vineyard devices and grape harvesters in Germany. In addition to autonomous grape harvesters, the product range includes numerous implements for processing the canopy such as defoliators, leaf trimmers and pre-pruners.

The medium-sized family business operates globally and achieves 60 percent of its revenues through exports.

ERO GmbH owns a subsidiary in Krasnodar, Russia

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Managing Director Michael Erbach



Economics Minister Dr. Volker Wissing



A tour of the company

