

PRESS RELEASE

Holzindustrie Schweighofer – Austrian investor of the year in Romania

Gerald Schweighofer awarded for long-lasting engagement

(Bucharest / Vienna, 27-10-2014) On the occasion of the Austrian National Day on 23rd October the Austrian investor of the year in Romania was awarded in the presence of the Austrian Ambassador, Mag. Gerhard Reiweger. This year the award was given to Holzindustrie Schweighofer.

The Austrian company has been active in Romania since 2002 – and ever since then has invested approximately 630 Mio Euro in the country. In addition to that another 150 Mio Euro are being invested right now in a new sawmill in Reci (Covasna).

With this award the contribution of Holzindustrie Schweighofer as a major investor and employer in Romania as well as the contribution to the modernization of the Romanian wood processing industry and its social engagement within the country were explicitly honored.

Gerald Schweighofer took the possibility to express his personal thanks to the employees and explained: “Our company has continuously invested in the past years although the economic situation in Europe in general and the wood market in particular is still quite tensed. We kept to our business principle to invest even in times when industry is not at its peak. And so far this strategy has proved to be right and so we decided to invest and build another sawmill in Romania, starting its operations in 2015.”

Important employer

Over the past 11 years, Holzindustrie Schweighofer has created more than 2,500 jobs in the four factories in Romania and plans to create another 650 in its new sawmill in Reci and some 100 employees by the other investments, which were done in order to increase the further processing procedures in the existing factories.

Added value for Romanian economy

Annually 1.2 Mio m³ lumber – i.e. 71 % of the total lumber production - are further processed within the Schweighofer factories, and by that the value of the lumber is clearly raised. As the company not only processes Romanian wood but also imports 1.2 Mio cbm raw logs per year (2015; corresponds to one-third of its wood consumption) from abroad and manufactures them in Romania. By that Holzindustrie Schweighofer ensures value adding to the countries national economy.

In 2013 Holzindustrie Schweighofer contributed 28 Mio Euro (124 Mio RON) taxes to Romanians national budget.

At the event participated: the Austrian Ambassador in Romania, Mag. Gerhard Reiweger, the Romanian minister for education, Remus Pricopie, high-ranking members of the diplomatic corps, Austrians delegate at the Austrian center of commerce in Bucharest, Mag. Rudolf Lukavsky and further high-ranking representatives of economy and politics.

Gerald Schweighofer started his career by working in his parents sawmill and learned everything about running a sawmill from bottom up. Meanwhile he gained 40 years of experience in wood business.

Within the years he successfully developed the traditional family company into a future oriented and international player in the wood industry - thanks to his passion for wood, his sense for business opportunities and his willingness to invest and enter new territories. Over the past 10 years, he has focused on Romania. With his pioneering spirit he has contributed significantly to developing Romania into a leading European country in wood industry with modern technology.

***Holzindustrie Schweighofer** is part of the Schweighofer Group and has its roots in an Austrian family business with more than 400 years of experience in woodworking. Today's key business units are wood industry, viscose pulp production, forestry, bioenergy production and real estate.*

Schweighofer has been active in Romania since 2002 and opened its first sawmill in 2003. Nowadays the company is leading in European woodworking business. At present Holzindustrie Schweighofer employs more than 2,500 people in Romania and runs 4 production units. Two sawmills and two factories for blockboard and glue lam products. In 2015 another Schweighofer sawmill will start operation in Reci (county Covasna).

Holzindustrie Schweighofer is also active in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

Requests

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