

Company Portrait

Probat-Werke von Gimborn Maschinenfabrik GmbH

Nearly all people who enjoy coffee come into contact with the Probat-Werke von Gimborn Maschinenfabrik GmbH, as this Emmerich-based enterprise that is rich in tradition enjoys a market share of roughly 70 per cent. Put in another way, out of ten cups of coffee drunk world-wide, seven were roasted with equipment made by the PROBAT Group. Probat has been operating globally for decades and is a global leader in the market segment of coffee roasting machines, equipment and plants.

The production of machines has a long tradition at Probat. As early as 1868, the „Emmericher Maschinenfabrik und Eisengießerei van Gülpen, Lensing & von Gimborn“ was founded by the merchants Alexius van Gülpen and Johann Heinrich Lensing as well as the engineer Theodor von Gimborn. The development, manufacturing and sale of equipment for turning green coffee into roasted coffee was already a main focus of the founders' activities. The first global roaster with modern roasting bins was developed in 1870. In 1900, this bestseller roaster had already been sold 50,000 times world-wide. But the founders in Emmerich did not want to put all eggs in one basket. Over time, numerous novelties in roasting technology significantly increased sales figures. Not least, quick drum roasters as well as Series „G“ king-size roasters contributed to a sales volume of 100,000 roasters by the year 1938.

Despite continuous innovation in coffee processing, the family tradition has remained in place. Until 1993, three managing directors – all three descendents of the founding family – headed the business successively and the founding families still own the company to this day. Wim Abbing, the fourth managing director that is a descendent of the founding family, today is the managing director of the Probat Group.

Due to the economic situation, the demand for roasters was slow after 1945. Subsequently, quality, durability and capacities of the machines have improved and developed continually through technological progress. In the meantime, the product range encompasses everything from shop to king-size roasters and includes whole roasting plants, industrial grinders, electronic control units, computer control units as well as spare parts.

Last but not least, it is the continuous growth of knowledge which has made Probat a name for expertise in coffee. In this way Probat's R&D area is unique and underscores the high quality of its products. R&D is divided into two main segments: the technical centre and the lab. In the technical centre customers can test various roasters under industrial conditions while receiving sound advice in support of their decision for the best roasting technology for their respective needs. By request, customers can even test-roast their own beans.

In the lab, in-house experts analyse such things as the development of coffee aroma. As these processes can be influenced in a targeted way by the roasting process such research provides important information for the construction of particularly efficient equipment and control technologies.

For the growing market of specialty roasters Probat presents a salesroom with the complete range of specialty roasters. Customers get to know the shop roasters in an environment that is true to the original shop roastery and can see for themselves what the new roasters look like and how to operate them.

An in-house museum for coffee technology in Emmerich documents the history of technological developments and provides the visitor with rare glimpses into the old world of coffee.



Based on extensive coffee research, Probat boasts comprehensive specialist knowledge. As the company views its customers as partners, passing on this knowledge is a matter of course. This transfer includes operator training on new equipment as much as the transfer of extensive knowledge within the coffee trilogy: green coffee, roasting and preparation.

At its German locations in Emmerich and Norderstedt bei Hamburg alone Probat employs about 400 people. World-wide it has over 600 staff working in various companies in Italy, the US and Brazil. Presently, about 45 trainees enjoy extensive and diverse traineeships at Probat. The company will continue to support generations to come and is always open to traineeship applications.

Probat exports about 80 per cent of its products to more than 100 countries worldwide.