

Property with new working environments stands for a successful future

****Gauselmann Group inaugurates 14.5-million-euro administration building in Merkur-Allee****



Opening ceremony with guests of honour: Paul Gauselmann and his wife Karin welcomed (right to left) Daniela Beihl (FDP), Oliver Vogt (CDU), Achim Post (SPD), Ernst-Wilhelm Rahe (SPD), Bianca Winkelmann (CDU), Mayor Henning Vieker, contractor Frank Kögel and Lars Reichel (technical manager for real estate at the Gauselmann Group).

Espelkamp – Twenty metres tall, 7,000 square metres of total floor space, about 300 workstations and a total cost of approx. 14.5 million euros – these are just a few key facts about the new administration building in Merkur-Allee in Espelkamp which the Gauselmann Group officially inaugurated on Tuesday, 29 March. It is the largest and most expensive

administration building of the group of companies – and thus a property of superlatives. Apart from its sheer size, however, it is above all also a sign of confidence that stands for an economically strong future despite all the challenges the present holds.



Contractor Frank Kögel handed the symbolic key to the new building to Paul Gauselmann.

“I am very proud of the new building and the excellent working conditions it allows us to offer our associates”, explains Management Board Chairman Paul Gauselmann. “As you can see today, our decision to go ahead with the construction despite the pandemic has turned out to have been the right one.” Two years ago, he says, it was “a big step” to decide in favour of the construction, given the current circumstances. Yet the company founder has always had a positive outlook on the future and with this basic attitude emboldened everyone involved. Besides representatives of the companies involved in the construction, several local politicians also attended the opening ceremony. In addition to the members of the Bundestag Achim Post (SPD) and Oliver Vogt (CDU), the members of the State Parliament Bianca Winkelmann (CDU), Ernst-Wilhelm Rahe (SPD) and Daniela Beihl (FDP) were present as well. Espelkamp’s mayor Henning Vieker also made a point of attending.



Proud owner of the building: Paul Gauselmann welcomed the guests in the new office building of the Gauselmann Group.

As technical manager for real estate, Lars Reichel offered a brief overview of the special features of the 42-metre-long and 42-metre-wide building. In the centre, an inner courtyard of approximately 13 by 13 metres extends all the way from the ground floor to the fourth floor, creating a friendly atmosphere with large window fronts serving as a source of natural light. The environmentally friendly green roofs complete the concept.

A special highlight is the interior design with its future-oriented working environments in a particularly employee-friendly atmosphere: hardly any classic office spaces, for instance, are to be found in the entire building. The interior design was guided by the way work has generally been developing towards becoming ever more agile, flexible and project-oriented. This is connected with an increased need for communication among the staff members – and dividing walls are often an impediment to this. Even so, the space still offers the option of withdrawing to special cubicles for meetings or to do concentrated work.



As a thank you for the excellent working conditions, the senior executives Tassia Giannopoulos (HR), Jens Knollmann (Beit) and Lars Reichel (real estate) presented Paul Gauselmann with a painting (right to left).

In terms of energy, too, the building is state of the art: to make sure that as little energy as possible is consumed, highly efficient heat pumps have been installed, most of which are powered by the 30 kW photovoltaic system on the roof. Thanks to the heat recovery systems, as little energy as possible has to be fed to the building. Only at times of peak loads is fossil fuel still to be used. For reasons of sustainability, the room temperature is also linked to whether or not employees are in the rooms. If, for instance, offices are not occupied during the morning or evening hours, the room temperature is automatically lowered.



The new administration building of the Gauselmann Group is 20 metres tall, 42 metres long and 42 metres wide.

Frank Kögel, managing director of the general contractor Kögel-Bau, thanked Paul Gauselmann for the confidence placed in his firm, saying it had been in the spirit of partnership that they had looked for ways on how to proceed and always found constructive solutions. A total of 43 contractors were involved in the new building, with the majority of the work being done by 33 regional companies. In the approximately one and a half years of construction work, 3,200 cubic metres of concrete, 400 tonnes of steel, 20 kilometres of pipes and 200 kilometres of cable were used. After construction began in June 2020, the building was ready to be moved in as early as January 2022. By now some 250 employees have their workstation there.