

INSIGHTS

ANNIVERSARIES

30 YEARS RICO AND 200 YEARS SEMPERIT

TOP LINE & SMART LINE

MOLD RANGES

ISO 13485

NOW AT ALL PRODUCTION SITES



Silicone Excellence Inside

THE RICO GROUP MAGAZINE

2024 edition

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INSIGHTS EDITORIAL



Dear colleagues, customers, suppliers and partners of the Rico Group.

You are holding a freshly printed copy of our Insights magazine in your hands – 2024 is in full swing and we would like to take the opportunity to run the rule over what has been a challenging year so far from a business point of view. It really does seem as though we have been navigating a series of crises for more than four years now: from the disruption of global supply chains caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to two devastating wars that have gripped the world for far too long.

For the RICO Group and its production sites in Austria, Switzerland, and the USA, these external factors have brought various challenges in their wake. However, thanks to excellent teamwork, we have overcome them. So I would like to extend a big thank you to the entire team for ensuring that the RICO spirit remains strong, even in such difficult times.

2024 started the same way as 2023 ended, with continued consolidation on the markets following years of volatility. The situation at our LSR production sites in Austria, Switzerland, and the USA stabilized in 2023, the expectation being that there would be an uptick in orders in 2024 – which has proved to be the case so far. Additionally, a number of significant new projects are currently moving over into production, which provides another indication of this growth trajectory.

On the other side of the coin, the picture in the new project business – for our mold making department in Thalheim in particular – is slightly different. After a strong year in 2023, we observed a significant slowdown in new project acquisitions after spring 2024. This is a direct reflection of the caution that our business units' customers are rather unobtrusive when it comes to making capital investments. Due to the high fixed costs associated with mold making, this has had a significant effect, and weighed on our financial results as a consequence. Even so, we firmly believe that thoroughly and continuously analyzing our cost structure will allow us to emerge from the current crisis stronger, and significantly improve our competitiveness in the process. Going forward, it will be essential for us to build up a more comprehensive understanding of our internal data, facts, and processes so that we can make quicker and more efficient decisions as a project-focused organization.



Wolfgang Neubauer (Director Finance), Thomas Aichberger (CEO)

Another crucial focus will be on strengthening existing customer relationships. We are committed to working closely with our customers so as to gain a better understanding of their needs and ensure we are better placed to offer tailored solutions. Strong ties to our customers have always been a key factor for our long-term success as well as the stability of our companies. We are also concentrating on a market diversification strategy: To minimize risks, we are continuously expanding our market portfolio and exploring new business areas.

Outlook

Despite the economic challenges, we can look to the future with confidence. Given our strategic direction and the dedication of our employees, we firmly believe that we will be able to overcome the current difficulties and emerge even stronger. Our ability to adapt and develop innovative solutions will help us identify and make the most of new opportunities as they present themselves.

We would like to thank you – our employees, as well as our customers and partners – for your continued trust and support.





Since mid 2023 RICO has been an important member of the Semperit Group, a global pioneer in high-quality elastomer products and applications for industrial customers, it has an illustrious history dating all the way back to 1824.

Just like RICO, which was founded 30 years ago, Semperit is celebrating a special milestone in 2024: its 200th anniversary. RICO is not only a valuable addition to Semperit thanks to its product range and expertise - it also mirrors the success factors that have helped Semperit to become a leading specialist in elastomer products over the past 200 years. Together, Semperit and RICO keep their customers' technology and infrastructure running smoothly - yesterday, today, and in tomorrow's world.



Semperit is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2024, using the occasion to reflect on centuries of tradition and map out the path to future success in a variety of ways, under the motto of "200 Years of Semperit - Experience for Tomorrow". On the 200-year website www.200.semperitgroup.com launched today, Semperit looks back on the company's history, which is a story of outstanding personalities and innovative ideas, of resounding successes as well as overcoming crises that jeopardized the company's existence. At the same time, solutions and people are presented who are already working on Semperit's future successes today. Visit our website to find out how the Semperit Group's products and solutions will keep its customers' technology and infrastructure running smoothly in tomorrow's world.





Success factors Our Semperit DNA

Our experience and strong focus on Semperit's success factors enable us to actively shape the future. With our products and solutions, we keep our customers' technology and infrastructure running in the world of tomorrow.



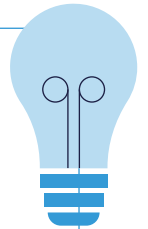
CUSTOMER PLAYER

The constant search for customer benefits and the commitment to go the extra mile have made Semperit the partner of first choice more and more often over the years. This is also our credo for the future: in a world that never stands still, we, as a reliable partner, will ensure that our customers are successful.

GLOBAL PIONEER

For over 200 years, Semperit has made success possible by thinking and acting on an international scale. This was true before the First World War, when Semperit was already a multinational company by the standards of the time. And it is all the more true today and in the future, when we, as a leading supplier, constantly expand our global footprint and grow intelligently and profitably - together with Rico.

SOLUTION MAKER



"Semper it", there is always a solution - this is the mindset that has made Semperit robust and successful for two centuries. Sometimes our team has to be inventive and innovative, sometimes it is more important to act with pragmatism and routine. But it always goes on, and there is always a solution.

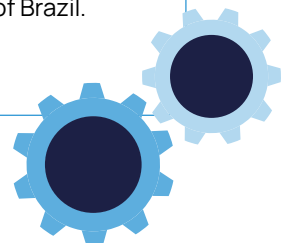
SUSTAINABLE PARTNER



Without sustainability in its corporate DNA, Semperit would never have made it to 200. And without sustainability as a closely-embedded strategic principle, there would be no promising future ahead for Semperit either. In practice, it is all about making major and minor adjustments - from climate protection and sustainable supply chains to ensuring a safe working environment and creating more sustainable production processes.

INNOVATION ENGINE

Enabling innovation was the birth of Semperit in 1824: developing products that deliver clear benefits for customers. Once centered on water-repellent clothing, today the company's focus is on leading-edge technological innovations, such as the Flying Belt, which transports thousands of tons of limestone per hour at heights of up to 36 meters in the mountains of Brazil.



RICO 30 YEARS OF RICO: 1994 TO THE PRESENT DAY

Our success story – defined by innovation and growth

Founded in 1994 by Hans Grabner, Fredi Griesbaum and Gerhard Kornfelder, the Rubber Injection Company – RICO for short – started out as a small mold production business in a premises on Maria-Theresia-Strasse in Wels.

And just six years later, space was already getting tight. Working with RICO’s long-standing partner and landlord Ernst Neudecker, a contemporary new building was built on the industrial estate in Thalheim, which the company moved into in 2001. Year after year, it was not just the headcount that went from strength to strength, but RICO’s vision to become THE solution provider in silicone injection moulding.

A decisive milestone in the company’s history was laid when it took the strategic decision to expand its core business of

mold making to also offer volume production of silicone parts for its customers. Equipped with five injection molding machines, the first production facility followed in 2009. And RICO has continued to grow ever since, with expansion projects at the site in 2013, 2016 and 2018.

Today, the number of machines used in volume production has increased fifteenfold, and the employee headcount now numbers more than 300.

In a reflection of this rapid growth, the company decided in 2021 to take the next step in its expansion. On June 15, 2022, RICO broke ground for its latest project, and after just 14 months in the making, the first production facility in the new building was up and running in early August 2023.





This year saw the completion of the new production space and office building. The facility, which was built in line with cutting-edge sustainability and technology standards, comprises around 10,600m² of usable space across multiple levels. A photovoltaic system with a capacity of 1,100 kWp was installed across the entire site, enabling RICO to generate around 1.1 GWh of electricity per year to help meet its high energy demands. The goal is to fill the new production areas with machines and projects as quickly as possible. Another significant milestone in the company's history came on July 31, 2023, when the sale of the RICO Group to Semperit AG was completed.

The official opening of the new building and celebrations to mark RICO's 30th anniversary took place on Friday, April 12, 2024 at the Thalheim bei Wels site. Attended by 700 guests including employees and their families as well as business partners, the event was a great success. It featured fascinating tours of the facilities, childcare for families, and excellent catering. A special highlight was the presence of Governor of Upper Austria Thomas Stelzer, who congratulated RICO: "What RICO has achieved over the past 30 years is truly impressive – and not just as a leading manufacturer in mold making and silicone injection molding, but as an employer, too. Besides being one of the largest employers in the region, RICO also has a proven track record of success when it comes to training apprentices. So, congratulations on that front, too – thanks to companies like RICO, Upper Austria remains an in-demand and highly successful province in terms of work, business, and prosperity." Thanks to the outstanding combination of entertainment and hospitality, the event was an unforgettable occasion.

RICO can look back on a successful past through the prism of the new opening, and is also using it as the launchpad for a promising future.



Governor Stelzer (4th from left) opens the ceremony



Celebrations in one of the new production halls



Founder and former owner of RICO

SIMTEC BREAKING THE WALL

SIMTEC doubles its space to meet demand

To meet growing demand, SIMTEC will break the wall standing between our SIMTEC facility and the neighboring 40,000 space. With this addition, SIMTEC will occupy the entire building, providing much-needed additional manufacturing, warehouse and office space. The additional space will also accommodate SIMTEC’s continued growth.

The expansion project is led by Sreedhar Pugalendhi, SIMTEC’s Senior Engineering Project Manager. The expansion will roll out in phases, commencing Q3 2024. Phase 1 will begin in August 2024 with the relocation and expansion of the warehouse, and QA final part inspection team stations. The electrical wiring and interior construction will begin in Q4 preparing the new facility for approximately 30 LSR and LSR multi-shot injection molding machines, related automation and auxiliary equipment. The SIMTEC toolroom and QA metrology lab are also slated to benefit from the added space, expanding capabilities and maximizing efficiencies.

With SIMTEC’s medical business segment rapidly growing, an expansion of the clean room is also a necessity. The added space will accommodate additional hygienic manufacturing cells for LSR and LSR 2k molding production lines and molding cells with inline value-added secondary operation stations. SIMTEC’s clean room was built in 2018 with the expected need for future expansion. The modular design of the clean room used will allow for the upcoming expansion, minimizing manufacturing disruption.



SIMTEC Silicone Parts LLC can make use of the complete building



SIMTEC LSR TECHNICIAN TEAM

Highly focused team of specialists

SIMTEC has formulated an inner team of manufacturing specialists. The SIMTEC LSR Technicians Team consists of six manufacturing pros, each with an area of specialization. The Techs are assigned to dedicated manufacturing cells, working closely with process engineers and production supervisors.

The Team meets daily to discuss project planning, strategies, and priorities. SIMTEC's data-driven LSR, LSR 2k and LSR Multi-shot manufacturing cells are fully automated and optimized for stable processing, maximized output, and heightened quality.



HARRY POSTLMAIR

Harry is an engineer and manufacturing veteran. Mr. Postlmair has 35 years of experience in injection molding, specializing in medical parts.

Harry joined SIMTEC in 2023 and is the leader of the LSR Technicians Team.



JOSE ACEVEDO

Jose joined SIMTEC in 2016 and due to his expertise he was chosen for the LSR Team. Jose is adept in both LSR single and LSR two-shot injection molding.



GENARO RAMIREZ

Genaro started his SIMTEC career in Madison, WI in 2010 and made the move with SIMTEC to Miramar, FL in 2012. Genaro is a senior set-up technician with nearly 15 years' experience in LSR and LSR 2k and multi-shot injection molding. Genaro also serves as a mentor and lead trainer for internal manufacturing team members.



CHAZ MICHAL

Chaz has 11 years in injection molding. He moved from NY to accept the SIMTEC position in 2021. His area of focus is LSR 2k clean room molding and is assigned a complex LIM manufacturing cell with multiple inline value-added processes performed within the cell after molding.



BRUCE LI

Bruce Li joined SIMTEC in 2019 and is a mold set-up specialist. Bruce works closely with Jason, fine-tuning LIM processes with a goal of streamlining time from initial set-up to release for full-scale production.



JASON FORDE

Jason joined SIMTEC in 2014 specializing in mold set-ups, and robotics programming and set-up.

Jason has attended both virtual and on location training to further hone his skills, and to stay at the forefront of technology.

RICO Group PEOPLE IN MOTION



DANIEL POLSTER

Daniel Polster has been Managing Director at SIMTEC Silicone Parts since March 19, 2024.

Prior to accepting his new role, Polster (40) had been the RICO Group's Head of Global Integration and Project Management since 2023.

In his previous role as Head of Mergers & Acquisitions at Semperit Group AG, he led the recent acquisition and subsequent integration of the RICO Group. With over 15 years of management experience in strategy, sales, and M&A under his belt, Daniel has led various international projects in Eastern and Western Europe. His background also includes a long-term role at a Big Four consulting firm, which provides an added depth of expertise for him to draw on. Austrian born and bred, Daniel holds a degree in International Business Administration from the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

"Thanks to its cutting-edge technology and unique expertise, SIMTEC has a solid commercial foundation and significant potential to strengthen its position in the US market. Our growth strategy, which centers on expanding production and promoting sales activities, remains unchanged and will enable us to fully unlock the opportunities that the market has to offer. I'm looking forward to the new challenge, and to working with a highly motivated team," he says.





ULAS SEVIM

Ulas Sevim has been named Head of Operations & Process Improvement at SIMTEC. Serving as Vice President Quality for the past 5 years, Ulas will now focus on our manufacturing processes to further enhance productivity and efficiency in our operations.



MATTEO MICHELON

Matteo Michelon has been responsible for the Italian market at the RICO Group as a Sales Agent since March 1, 2024. In this role, he is responsible for implementing and optimizing the company's sales strategies throughout the region. Matteo will establish new customer contacts to increase sales.



CHRISTOPH SOLENTHALER

Christoph Solenthaler took up his post as the new Head of Sales at Silcoplast AG on April 1, 2024. His role will see him assume responsibility for supporting the health-care sectors.



MICHAEL BODEMANN

Michael Bodemann joined the Silcoplast sales team on May 1, 2024. In his new function he will oversee the Industrial, consumer and appliance and food sectors. Michael's extensive sales experience will help the company expand its position in these industries.



CHRISTOPH HILGER

Christoph Hilger took over as Head of Sales on July 1, 2024 and is a member of the RICO Elastomere Projecting Management Board. With his extensive experience in project management and sales leadership, Christoph will make a significant contribution towards RICO's continued development.



MARTIN RAPPERSTORFER

Martin Rapperstorfer moved from RICO Elastomere Projecting to the RICO Group on July 1, 2024. As Global Head of Key Account, he is responsible for deepening and maintaining long-term customer relationships.



SABINE MÜHLEGGER

In April 2024, Sabine Mühlegger took over full responsibility for Human Resource Management. As part of her new position, Sabine will help to make sure that the company's long-term goals are supported by effective personnel strategies.



CHRISTIAN FRAUENSCHUH

Christian Frauenschuh has been in charge of research and development at RICO Elastomere Projecting since the beginning of June. He has many years of experience to his credit as Head of Research and Development and is already looking forward to successfully driving RICO's technological development.

HTR SERVICE CENTER TEAM

The heart of customer service

! Increasing Customer satisfaction

Good customer service is extremely important today and has the power to make or break a company. Today's customers have come to expect more than just a product or standard service. They want companies to address their specific needs and take time for them.

Especially in a rapidly evolving service industry such as heat treatment technology, the newly defined Service Center works as a source of added value by providing a link between customers, sales, and production. For a heat treatment facility. In particular, customer service that goes above and beyond is crucial as it lays the foundations for long-term customer relations while upholding a company's reputation – all of which is reflected in the bottom line.

The HTR Service Center is pivotal for ensuring customer satisfaction and loyalty. The team ensures that all customer

inquiries are processed quickly and professionally. This builds trust and ensures that the client feels that they are in good hands at all times. Through continuous monitoring – and improvement – of internal processes, the Service Center assures adherence with our stringent standards so that we always live up to customer expectations. Swift and efficient communication is a core aspect of the Service Center's approach, ensuring that issues are resolved quickly, and information is exchanged with maximum efficiency. This greatly facilitates collaboration between customers, and the sales and production departments. Additionally, the team specializes in developing individual solutions that are fully aligned to the specific needs of each customer.

The HTR Service Center team lies at the heart of our customer support and is an indispensable part of HTR. Thanks to their extensive experience, dedication, customer focus, and ultra-efficient response times, Nicole Rosenblattl, Sandra Zweimüller, and Ivana Babic have a significant role to play in the success of the company as well as customer satisfaction levels. In an industry where precision and reliability make all the difference, the HTR Service Center team assures that quality and service are consistently outstanding.



NICOLE ROSENBLATTL
Service Center, transport orders/part status, general information/price information



SANDRA ZWEIMÜLLER
Service Center, transport orders/part status, general information/price information



IVANA BABIC
Service Center, transport orders/part status, general information/price information

SIMTEC HIGH VOLUME, LSR MICRO-MOLD SOLUTION

Class 8 hygienic clean room production

CGM and AID wearable devices

The MedTech business segment is booming, and CGM (continuous glucose monitor) and AID (automated insulin delivery) wearable devices are major contributors to this growth. These wearable devices allow people living with diabetes to maintain safe glucose levels without disrupting their daily lives and without the need for insulin shots using syringes or pens. SIMTEC is a valued supplier to the market leaders in both wearable glucose monitoring and insulin delivery devices. These medical OEM leaders rely on SIMTEC as a key manufacturing partner due to the critical nature of the products, class 8 clean room requirements, mass production quantities, and their confidence in SIMTEC based on past project solutions.

SIMTEC was approached by an existing medical customer with a new program. They needed three very small seals for an insulin pump used in their wearable insulin drug device.



Production of seals



Wearable for administering insulin and blood glucose meter

The devices are filled with insulin and worn on the body. The small insulin pump in the devices dispenses the exact dose of insulin into the patient's body. The three micro radial seals each weigh only a fraction of a gram (0.02g, 0.01g, 0.01g), and are used in fluid and non-fluid paths in the insulin pump.

Given the application and the parts' contact with insulin fluid, LSR's biocompatible attributes and SIMTEC's automated hands-free, class 8 hygienic clean room production environment met the requirements. To meet the 30 million parts per year output requirement for each part, SIMTEC's Austrian sister company and mold supplier, RICO Elastomere Projecting built three 128-cavity, class 101 molds. A needle value gating system was used to provide the precision accuracy and control needed for parts this small.

SIMTEC's project and process engineering team worked together to develop a customized and robust manufacturing solution. Fully automated manufacturing cells were equipped with the latest LIM machines and state of the art process control technology, and a specialized filtration system. To handle the size and quantity of small parts being produced, a customized parts handling system was required. Partnering with a third-party supplier, a proprietary collection system was developed, designed for hygienic molding of micro parts.

The small size of the parts, their geometry and the translucent, natural color of non-pigmented LSR, can also present challenges for part inspections. SIMTEC's trained QA technicians carefully inspect in-process samples throughout the production run. Customized fixtures were designed and fabricated for each part for visual and dimensional inspections. High-powered microscopes with a minimum of 6X magnification are required for accurate visual inspections. High Accuracy Dimension Measurement Systems and CMMs are used for precise dimensional measurements of the parts. Throughout the process, the parts production, inspections, and packaging are performed in a hygienic class 8 clean room environment consistent with the customer's requirements and SIMTEC's medical molding protocol.

Partnering together and working closely with the customer, SIMTEC was able to provide a solution that met the customer's needs.



RICO TOP LINE & SMART LINE

New mold product lines

! Targeting Customer Requirments

We take the option of our customers seriously. During our last customer satisfaction survey, we got the feedback that we need to extend our range of tooling. Beside the proven technology for high volume production, class 101 molds we needed an option for mid size- and small- volume production. This goes hand in hand with a faster availability and a lower level of investment. With the **SMART LINE** we are now in the position to provide tooling for smaller quantities and at the same time we designed the new mold-range with the possibility for a fast changeover of the cavity plates directly in the machine. This safes money, time and ressources!

Of course, we also needed a new name for our existing range of molds: **TOP LINE**.

In profile - the SMART LINE and TOP LINE ranges

TOP LINE

Customized according to the specific product, RICO molds ensure optimum use of space inside the machine (in line with the machine size and clamping force), as well as maximum energy efficiency coupled with outstanding performance. What's more, RICO's tried-and-trusted manufacturing technology produces the ideal injection system for the application in question, with a valve gate nozzle with up to 160 cavities and an open system including up to 256 cavities, as well as a balanced-flow cold runner.

RICO molds - advantages:

- Short set-up times thanks to replacement of cold or hot runner inserts inside the injection molding machine
- Open cold runner without moving parts speeds up maintenance
- Long-lasting cold runner nozzles (several million cycles) help to reduce maintenance costs
- No expensive repairs required, as the mold can be closed when cold
- 24/7 operation with RICO molds translates into lower production costs
- Compact construction generates energy savings of up to 40%

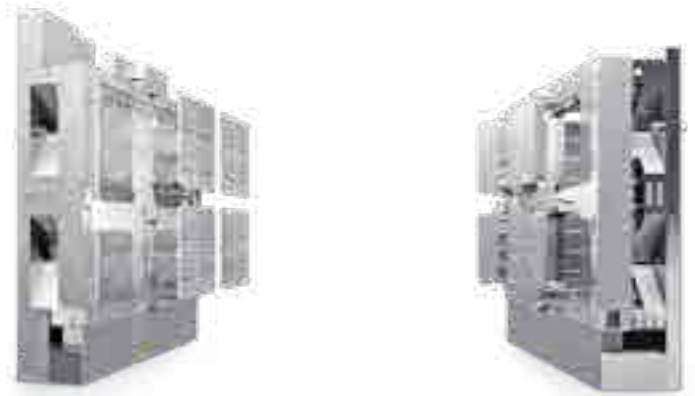


RICO 256-cavity mould



SMART LINE

RICO's standardized mold design with the greatest possible use of interchangeable parts and easy replacement of cavity inserts



RICO SMART LINE tool

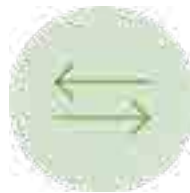
SMART LINE solution: two-plate and middle-plate molds

- Mold dimensioned to the maximum possible size for the machine (tie-bar spacing of 470 and 570) in question
- 8 molds per design
- Tie-bar spacing of 470 with 8 to 64 cavities possible
- Tie-bar spacing of 570 is also available with the same range of cavities, allowing for production of a broader range of parts
- Many of the mold components are standardized and manufactured in larger batches

Smartline molds – advantages:



Cost savings of 30%



Availability of replacement parts aligned with production



Optimized process

Steel of the same quality as in our TOP LINE molds used for cavity inserts



30% shorter timeline

Master-mold design with interchangeable cavity inserts



SILCOPLAST 3D PRINTING

RICO Group opens 3D PRINT Competence Centre at Silcoplast site in Switzerland

Extended service portfolio

Silcoplast opened the 3D Printing Competence Centre at its Wolfhalden site at the beginning of the year. It delivers a range of advantages, including faster product development, scheduling of the ideal time for a product launch, and the ability to adapt to new developments.

The introduction of 3D printing technology marks a significant milestone in Silcoplast's prototype development activities, as well as underscoring the company's commitment to continuous innovation and enhancing customer satisfaction. Installation of the technology means that Silcoplast is ideally equipped to continue playing a leading role in the sector moving forward and to offer its customers world-class solutions.

3D printing will also allow the company to produce prototypes with eye-catching speed. Production times are considerably shorter compared to conventional manufacturing methods, meaning that high-quality prototypes can be made in next to no time.

Such swift response times are a decisive factor in satisfying continuously changing customer requirements and meeting the client's needs as quickly as possible.

Additive manufacturing has contributed to an increase in production capacity at Silcoplast's prototype workshop, and also opened the door to new business opportunities. With the ability to produce individual parts quickly, going forward Silcoplast will be in a position supply the RICO Group customers with top-quality prototypes rapidly and efficiently, besides supporting their product development, it will also bring innovative ideas to life.

The three printers stand out in terms of the broad range of materials they can work with, as well as their capacity for continuous operation, meaning that bespoke solutions can be offered that are tailored to the customer's exact requirements. And Silcoplast is not resting on its laurels – by continuously extending the variety of materials available, it will be able to adapt its services even more effectively according to customer specifications. In particular, this will open up the option of printing inserts for master molds used in injection molding using the 3D printing process is a major advance in production development. These inserts can be used with both LSR and RHP molds, and the new technology will allow for high-precision production of prototypes designed to fit exactly in the mold.



3D printing at Silcoplast

SILCOPLAST PHACO SLEEVES

15 years of experience

! Precision, safety, experience and innovation

Silcoplast has taken the production of phaco sleeves to a new level through the combination of precision and safety with long-standing experience and continuous innovation. Built up over many years, our comprehensive production expertise – coupled with a steady stream of improvements – has made sleeves and the related test chambers an essential tool for cataract surgery.

Sleeves have a decisive influence on the success of an operation and make a significant contribution to improving surgical outcomes. Our primary target group for phaco sleeves includes ophthalmologists, ophthalmic surgeons, hospitals, surgical clinics, medical technology companies and research facilities.

Our 15-plus years of experience in sleeve production at the Wolfhalden site will provide strong foundations for us to achieve our objectives moving forward.

Thanks to the introduction of distal drilling into the sleeves and expansion of our production capacity, we are ideally placed to carry on supplying our customers with top-class products and responding quickly to their future requirements.

The silicone that Silcoplast AG uses to produce its phaco sleeves is flexible, long-lasting and complies fully with the statutory regulations for the medical sector. The injection molding procedure used in production allows for precise and efficient manufacturing. After production, the phaco sleeves undergo strict quality checks before they are delivered to the customers.

Silcoplast supplies sleeves in various sizes, with corresponding color coding – this enables quick and efficient identification of the required design, which reduces errors while also helping to optimize surgical procedures. This is especially important in the professional setting of an operating theater, where time and precision are decisive.

Using a high-precision mold with a valve gate nozzle to produce the test chamber enables us to ensure that the chambers also meet the highest quality standards. The sleeves and test chambers are manufactured under one roof – and packaging of the ready-to-use products is a logical extension of this.



Phaco sleeves for cataract surgery



RICO SUCCESSFUL ISO 13485 CERTIFICATION

Positive audit result

Medical products: ISO 13485 certification

At RICO, certification has been the defining feature of 2024. In April, our current certifications were transferred to Quality Austria. And following the strategic decision taken in Q1 2023 (without getting into the preparations spread out over the course of more than a year and audits lasting over 40 hours in total), the company obtained ISO 13485 certification at the beginning of July.

Aligned with European legislation, the ISO 13485 standard focuses on the development, implementation and maintenance of a quality management system. It is intended for all organizations that develop and manufacture medical products and bring them to market, as well as their suppliers and service providers. In the world of medical products, RICO serves as a component manufacturer for a medical product.

According to Austromed (an interest group for manufacturers), there are currently 750,000 different medical products in use in Austria. The highly diverse range of products extends from everyday items such as visual aids and sticking plasters, right through to sophisticated instruments and devices including respirators, insulin pumps and optical catheters.

Not only are these products fascinating in their own right, they're also highly promising from a commercial perspective. ISO 13485 certification has given RICO access to a market that is worth EUR 18.6bn in Austria alone.

RICO has had an integrated management system certified in accordance with the IATF 16949, ISO 13485, ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards for more than a decade. And ISO 13485 certification will make the company an even stronger partner for its medical sector customers. Certification is testimony to the effective quality management system currently in place at RICO, as well as confirmation that the system requirements have been implemented in compliance with the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device Regulation (IVDR). There is a clear end-to-end focus covering development, mold manufacturing and production.

RICO's documentation and processes were rigorously vetted. To begin with, the audit concentrated on the general requirements for quality management systems, as well as RICO's role and the organizational context. The focus then turned to production and development, infrastructure and procurement processes, and ultimately customer-related procedures as well as matters related to HR and management. All areas of the company were placed under the microscope and at the end of the day RICO was awarded ISO 13485 certification – and deservedly so. We would like to say a special thank you to all of the employees who played their part!



Certificate ISO 13485



f.l.t.r. Dr Markus Nuspl, Gregor Muck, Carina Essenhofer

HTR VOLUME PRODUCTION IN HEAT TREATMENT

Increased production capacity

Customer benefits

HTR has expanded its production capacity dramatically in recent years and now offers the ideal combination of technological expertise and the capacity required to satisfy your volume production needs. High-tech heat treatment equipment ensures efficient, reliable fulfillment of your specifications.

What this means for customers:

1. Scalability

A key advantage of series production is its scalability. Customers who previously only ordered smaller batches from HTR can now increase their order quantities.

2. Consistent quality

Service quality is paramount at HTR. The company's high quality and environmental standards are reflected in ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certification. A state-of-the-art control system monitors all production parameters in order to ensure that components meet the strictest quality criteria.

3. Flexibility and adaptability

HTR will retain its customary levels of flexibility and adaptability following the introduction of volume production. The company can supply bespoke solutions and address specific customer requirements.

4. Long-term partnerships

High production volumes and consistent delivery times create a sense of trust and reliability, leading to stronger business relationships. Customers can rely on HTR's ability to satisfy their requirements – not just today, but also in the future.

5. Technological advances and innovations

HTR continuously invests in new technology. Volume production illustrates how the company uses technological breakthroughs to generate added value for its customers.

6. Eco-friendly production

Volume production opens the door to optimized production processes and more efficient use of resources. This helps to reduce the company's environmental footprint and enables customers to hit their sustainability targets.

Volume production is available for the following hardening processes:

- **Nitriding:** Six blast furnaces and plasma nitriding equipment ensure the highest level of surface hardness, wear resistance and enhanced corrosion protection.
- **Vacuum hardening:** Ideal for high-precision components, HTR offers low-warpage hardening using its four vacuum furnaces.
- **Case hardening/inert gas hardening:** Two fully automated machines with an integrated washing system deliver optimum results thanks to a combination of hardness and toughness.
- **Induction hardening:** One-stop shop – HTR uses two inductive hardening machines, a straightening press and a magnetic particle inspection unit.



HTR series production



ANNIVERSARIES

A special THANK YOU from the RICO GROUP

to our loyal and long-serving employees

Every company is shaped by the people who work there – day in and day out, their commitment, creativity and tireless efforts help us to celebrate successes and overcome challenges together. We would like to take this opportunity to give a special mention to those employees who have been an indispensable part of the RICO Group for many years.

Their loyalty and dedication symbolize continuity, and also reflect the strong sense of community and trusting environment that set our company apart. Through their work, ideas and cooperation, every single one of them has played a significant part in enabling us to grow as a team and to develop. We're proud and also grateful to have such motivated and loyal employees on board. And it's also a pleasure to celebrate their anniversaries – congratulations from all of us!

We are delighted to announce the following anniversaries:

Our congratulations and special thanks for 25 years of outstanding service go to Thomas Grüneis

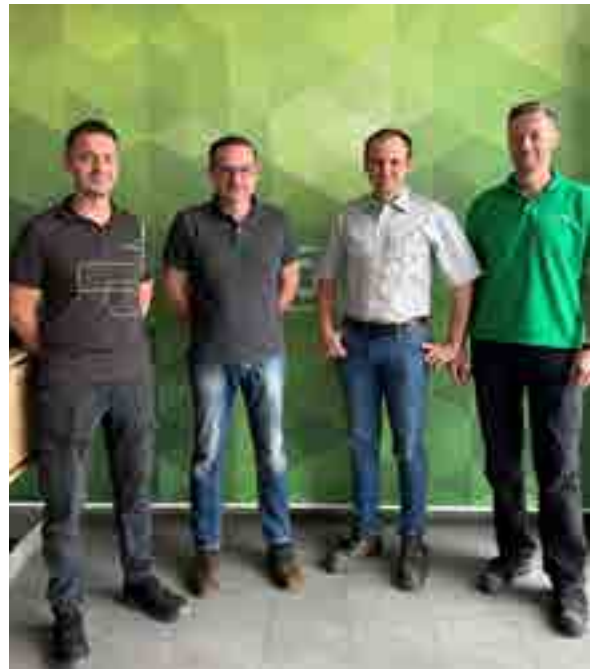
And an equally special thank you for 20 years of loyal service to:

RICO Elastomere Projecting
Wolfgang Ellinger
Mario Hartl

HTR Rosenblattl GmbH
Nicole Rosenblattl

15 years

RICO Elastomere Projecting
David Hochhauser



f.l.t.r.: Thomas Grüneis, Wolfgang Ellinger, David Hochhauser, Mario Hartl



Nicole Rosenblattl, HTR Service Centre



RICO GROUP Trade fair & conference appearances

For customers, business partners and the general public

Find out more about the RICO GROUP at the following trade fairs and events in 2024.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The rest of 2024 promises some exciting developments, as well as excellent opportunities for comparing notes and networking in our industry. The following events will give us a great chance to show you our latest innovations, products and services. They are also an ideal platform for holding valuable discussions, sharing ideas and planning joint projects.

14-15 October 2024
LSR Conference, Minneapolis/USA

15-19 October 2024
Fakuma, Friedrichshafen/DE

11-14 November 2024
Compamed, Düsseldorf/DE

A date for your 2025 calendar:



Exhibition stand Silicone Expo Amsterdam (NL)



Exhibition stand Compamed Düsseldorf (DE)



Exhibition stand Fakuma Friedrichshafen (DE)

NEWS FROM THE RICO GROUP

FLASHLIGHTS

There's always so much going on at RICO outside of our day-to-day operations. And we want to make sure you don't miss out on all the latest news.



01

RICO named MAM Supplier of the Year once again in 2023

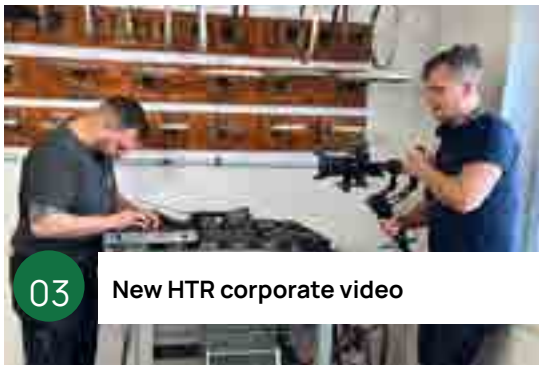
For nearly 10 years now, RICO has been cooperating closely with MAM, a well-known supplier of high-quality pacifiers, bottles and wide range of other baby products. Following on from our success in 2019, RICO was named "Supplier of the Year" for the second time in 2023 – a reflection of our team's hard work, dedication and outstanding performance. A supplier performance rating of 99% and quality performance rating of 99.7% over the past five years speak for themselves and highlight our outstanding collaboration with MAM.



02

Summer party at HTR

HTR's summer get-together at the company's plant was a great success. The weather played along too, and the HTR team enjoyed a range of tasty refreshments, including delicious treats straight from the barbecue, freshly made salads and delightful desserts. One of the highlights was watching a soccer match on a big screen, with the employees cheering on their favorite team (Austria, of course!).



03

New HTR corporate video

HTR's new corporate video puts the combination of craftsmanship, technology and the human side center stage. The video provides a unique insight into the various mechanical processes, and also profiles the people behind the machines.



Scan the QR code to watch the new video



04

Success for RICO employees in the Wels Business Run

This year, many RICO employees again took part in the Wels Business Run – among those taking on the challenge were 42 apprentices. The event was a huge success and, as in previous years, RICO was one of the main sponsors. For the second year in succession, RICO comfortably held off the competition to defend its title in the Apprentice Challenge.





Silcoplast boat trip

The staff party at Silcoplast was a great success! Employees from various departments and positions came together on the Hohentwiel on Lake Constance to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Semperit and the 30th anniversary of RICO. This joint boat trip provided a wonderful opportunity to strengthen team spirit and socialise in a relaxed atmosphere. The event was an excellent opportunity to express our appreciation for the work we have done.



LSR Conference

Each year SIMTEC is asked to participate in the LSR conference as a featured speaker, to share our knowledge and experience with the LSR community and OEM manufacturers in attendance. At the 2024 LSR Conference, Ulas Sevim VP of Quality/Head of Operations & Process Improvement, is discussing Small Geometries and Complex Surfaces. A big turnout is expected.



Summer Anniversary Celebration

SIMTEC is celebrating all year long the milestone anniversaries in our Group. Semperit AG celebrated their 200th year and RICO their 30th year anniversaries! To mark the occasion, and to also celebrate SIMTEC's 22 years of providing value-added solutions for our business partners, SIMTEC invited Team Members and their families to enjoy a Summer Picnic and Anniversary Celebration. The event included a BBQ cook-out, games for the children, and fun (and competitive) team building activities for the adults. Working and having fun as a team is a SIMTEC tradition!



Otti heads into retirement

A very special member of staff celebrated his final day at the company on Wednesday May 29, as Othmar Wurm retired after a remarkable 27 years at RICO. "Otti" was one of the old hands and for many years also the manager of our mold production unit. His expertise, commitment and tireless dedication were instrumental in RICO's development and success. Always willing to help out, his wide-ranging know-how was a valuable source of support for the whole team. We would like to say a special thank you to Othmar and wish him all the best and good health for the future.



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2024 edition

INSIGHTS

THE RICO GROUP MAGAZINE

Bundled Silicone Excellence Inside