

SUSTAINABILITY ARISES AT THE PLANT

Feintool uses district heating and electric forklift trucks

Sustainable business operations not only entail manufacturing economical products from safe materials, but also require rethinking how the company's systems, operations, and transport processes are set up. Feintool is committed to conducting its business in a sustainable manner. Switching to district heating at our headquarters in Lyss, Switzerland, and to battery-powered forklift trucks at our plant in Obertshausen, Germany, are two prime examples of this.

Switch from natural gas to district heating

Feintool reached further steps on its path to becoming more sustainable in 2019.

A Feintool building on Industriering 3 in Lyss was newly heated via district heating from the local supplier "Wärme Lyss Nord" and no longer with natural gas. This investment was a reflection of Feintool's decision to operate in a more resource-efficient manner and to reduce the emissions previously generated through its use of natural gas.

District heating is nothing other than energy that is generated at one location, yet cannot be used there. It is therefore transported by means of a water system to places where it is needed. Once there, it is withdrawn via a heat exchanger and fed into a building's heating system. In the case of Feintool's location at Industriering 3, the waste heat from industrial drying processes from the neighboring GMZ Extraktionswerk AG is used to heat the building and produce hot water. As such, Feintool's system is a particularly environmentally friendly solution – and

in accordance with the ISO 14001 international management standard, which requires companies to continuously improve their environmental performance. The Feintool location in Lyss is also certified in accordance with ISO 14001.

Andreas Schindler, head of facility management at the Lyss sites, explains: "Investment in a connection to the district heating network has paid off for Feintool in numerous ways. The new installation is more maintenance-friendly, space-saving, and more sustainable than the previous heating system. District heating provides us with 500 000 kilowatt hours of heating capacity per year." In comparison, Switzerland's annual consumption per capita is approximately 7 000 kilowatt hours. Overall, the benefits of district heating for the environment are enormous – according to the energy supplier Wärme Lyss Nord, the use of district heating can reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 6 000 tons in the area covered by the heating network.