

GW Hungary celebrates its 20th anniversary

In 2009, Gebrüder Weiss Hungary generated net sales of 32 million euro. Its number of employees has been unchanged for years. Next year, a fifth GW site is due to be opened in Western Hungary.

At its 20th anniversary press conference, Gebrüder Weiss Air & Sea director Heinz Senger-Weiss stressed that the foundation of the Hungarian subsidiary was a milestone in the Group's development. The Austrian logistics service provider with its history of over 500 years entered the international market 20 years ago with Hungaroweiss, thereby initiating its Eastern European and subsequently global expansion.

Over the last two decades, GW Hungary has made a total of 8 million deliveries to almost every corner of the world. 3.5 million tonnes of goods were transported by its lorries, which covered 1 billion kilometres in the process. During the same period, Gebrüder Weiss invested over 25 million euro in Hungary, in greenfield sites and in the field of technology.

It opened its first office in Budapest in 1990, with nine employees, bringing its 200 m² storage area into operation a year later. Since then, its storage capacity has been continuously expanded. In the following years, its Hungarian branch secured ISO 9002 certification, further expanding its storage and logistics segment and opening its air and sea freight division at the airport of Ferihegy. The rapid development of the firm allowed it to make an extremely important expansion step: in 2002, it opened its logistics centre in Dunaharaszti, with a total surface area of 10,500 m², within the context of a 10 million euro investment. GW equipped the terminal with automated product promotion and EDP technology, previously unknown in Hungary, which permitted the dynamic expansion of the East European groupage transport business. Direct transport was initiated from Dunaharaszti to Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Serbia-Montenegro and Slovakia.

In 2005, Hungaroweiss became Gebrüder Weiss Hungary, thereby initiating a further intensive investment phase. Over the following three years, 15 million euro were provided in order to increase the storage capacity of Dunaharaszti to 25,000 m².

Gebrüder Weiss has always paid particular attention to the development of the Hungarian subsidiary, which is regarded as a cornerstone of its expansion into the South-Eastern European market: in 2008, it opened a 1,000 m² site in Hajdúboeszoermény, in order to service clients in Eastern Hungary. Last year, Gebrüder Weiss Hungary inaugurated a further site in Szigetszentmiklós, with a storage area of 7,000 m². In order to strengthen its presence in the West of the country even further, in 2011, the Company will open its fifth site in Hungary.

Its constant expansion is also reflected in numbers of shipments. In this way, in 2008, transported shipments exceeded 800,000 for the first time.

Gebrüder Weiss Hungary has 220 employees, a figure that has been stable for years. With the opening of the planned Western Hungarian branch, the number of GW Hungary employees will be increased by over 10%.