

DEATH OF BRUNO BACHHOFFER

Creative CEO, dearly esteemed friend and colleague

A thinker, doer, friend – Bruno Bachhofer has passed away. After a short, serious illness, Bruno Bachhofer died on Saturday 8 May 2021. He was 79 years old.

Aged just 29, Bruno Bachhofer decided to set up his own business and together with the late Anton Locher, founded Hydro-Elektrik GmbH® as a specialist company in water technology systems.

For thirty-eight years, he was CEO of the company based in Ravensburg-Obereschach,

which grew to become the HydroGroup®. Even after handing over the reins twelve years ago, he continued to enrich the company with his experience and ideas until shortly before his death.

Sadly, he will not be with us to experience the 50th anniversary of his beloved – and now

globally active – “Hydro” in September this year.

His contagious, hearty laugh, humour and zest for life were an inspiration to all and have left a lasting mark on the company.

Both a boss and a friend, Bruno Bachhofer was characterised by his willingness to roll up his sleeves and help out. As a tireless inventor who was always on the look-out for innovations or ways to solve problems, his regular product creations played a decisive role in advancing the company. One of his biggest successes – which was also distinguished with an innovation award – was the establishment of new production technology for the construction of large stainless-steel tanks directly on site for storing drinking water. This system revolutionised drinking water storage in the field of water supply. Several patents bore his name, too.

When asked about his creativity, he once said that he grew up in modest circumstances and was never bought any toys. But since he had always been interested in mechanics and the family had tools, he simply made his own.

The executive board and all employees join in mourning the death of their entrepreneurial and popular senior director.

Nachruf

Unser Firmenmitgründer

Bruno Bachhofer

ist nach kurzer Krankheit überraschend von uns gegangen.

Sein Beruf war für ihn Berufung, seine Zielstrebigkeit, sein Ideenreichtum und seine Begeisterungsfähigkeit bewundernswert, ein schwäbischer Visionär, Kollege und Freund.

Bruno, wir haben dir viel zu verdanken!

Hydro-Elektrik GmbH



Firmenleitung und Belegschaft

REMINDER - CONTRIBUTION FROM „Water News Edition 11/2010“

Thinker, Doer, Human Being

Lasting impressions of longstanding employees on Bruno Bachhofer, who as the company’s founder and CEO was responsible for Hydro-Elektrik GmbH for 38 years. Even after turning over the company management, Bruno Bachhofer will continue to contribute his experience to the company.

For Charly Hörmann, Bruno Bachhofer is something like a caring, benevolent father of the Hydro family, who always keeps everyone in suspense with enough work. As tireless inventor and unconventional thinker, he simultaneously worked on several projects at once in his head, which didn’t always make communication easy because of the way his thoughts jumped around. And: „There’s room for three people in his shoes“, said Charly with a grin, and at the same time he mentioned Bruno’s hearty laugh, his sense of humour and his „joie de vivre“.

Richard Gagg was impressed by his hands-on, fast, uncomplicated way of doing things. Here it’s not just a matter of quickly recognizing

problems and their solutions. Bruno is also characterised by his ability to be both a boss and a mate, to help out and to get to work.

Also his trust in the abilities of the employees and his forgiving manner if something doesn’t go as planned, even if one or the other was first given a very critical going-over beforehand, added Claus Dietenberger, who sees Bruno’s impulsive manner as something like a fuse or a bomb.

Otto Pollini sees Bruno B. as a practical person, who accepts challenges and likes to make decisions. But as a buyer, he proves to be absolutely merciless as a Swabian with a good sense of what is possible with regard to the price.



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Being direct and sticking to the promises made without restrictions – regardless of how hard they may prove to be later – were Dieter Baumann’s highlights regarding Bruno B. However, he could also be tough and uncompromising when he felt it was necessary.

Andrea Strobel is sure that Bruno’s creativity developed under the influence of a childhood in which Nature and a stream were his main playthings. She perceived working together with him as a challenge and experienced and learned many positive things in the process. Bruno doesn’t see problems, just solutions. And these are often unconventional and come to him lightning-fast.

His open manner, his knowledge and his innovative feel for things always benefited the company. In the process, he always kept in good physical shape, despite – or possibly because of – his love of good food and wine.



Special Prize for Innovation conferred to Hydro-Elektrik

The 19th of November, 2003 was a special day for Bruno Bachhofer, CEO of Hydro-Elektrik GmbH. It was the day that a donated Euro 10,000 special prize was conferred to the Stuttgart Geno House. The prize was personally presented by Erwin Kuhn, president of the Geno Banks, together with Minister of State Christoph Palmer. This prize recognised the „development of a special procedure for economic on-site manufacture of cylindrical, spiral-welded large-capacity tanks made of stainless steel“.

It all began about two years ago. Time and time again, customers disturbed the maximally 2.5 mm-thick walls of tanks produced with the folded spiral-seam method. In addition, one-sided welding lead to tension and distortion.

„There must be another way“, said Bruno Bachhofer, who began with a number of different welding attempts with plating 4 mm thick. At the end, the models produced with counter-welding were so promising that work commenced immediately on the construction of an appropriate welding machine. High-precision plate guidance, exact positioning of the firer and a constant speed were ultimately required for a high-quality welding seam. Therefore, both the plate guidance and the welding process had to be automated under electronic control. The end result was a fully-automatic welding module.

Once the welding technology was in place, modules for tank construction had to be developed. Modular construction was important, as all of the technology should be transportable. After only a year or so of development, Bachhofer reached his goal, and was able to present the first spiral-welded tank mantle.

Just a few weeks later, the first tank was finished and had a volume of 200 m³. Meanwhile, a new production facility with 1,000 m² of



production space was constructed in Tannheim. With this, the basis for a cost-effective and high-quality technology for the construction of large storage tanks was laid.

In addition to the development, market preparation had also occurred. This technology initiated a revolutionary change, especially in the

field of communal drinking-water storage. As Bachhofer puts it optimistically: „It won’t be long now before those responsible will have to justify themselves if they want to erect storage equipment out of concrete using conventional methods“.

The fact is that it doesn’t just concern the tank. Hydro-Elektrik has developed a complete system solution. This includes a cleaning system for the tank interior, controlled venting and aeration via high-capacity pollen filters and a special inlet system to prevent changes to the water condition.

**Bruno, thank you for everything!
Rest in peace.**

LEGAL INFORMATION



HydroGroup
www.hydrogroup.de

Publisher

Hydro-Elektrik GmbH
Angelestraße 48/50
88214 Ravensburg
info@hydrogroup.de



Editorial team

Manfred Brugger
mb@hydrogroup.de

Layout

Silvia Mesmer
silvia.mesmer@hydrogroup.de

Company publication

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