

**Röchling**

# Acting responsibly

Magazine K 2022 | EN



# Taking Responsibility – Developing the Future

Dear business partners, customers, and readers,

sustainability is one of the mega-trends of our time. Private individuals aren't the only ones called upon to rethink their behaviour – especially companies have to make their contributions to a sustainable future. The plastics industry in particular has a key role to play in the upcoming transformation. On the one hand, the use of plastics reduces greenhouse gas emissions by saving resources and making production processes more energy efficient. On the other hand, improper disposal and a lack of further processing have negative effects on the environment. This makes it essential to close the loop, develop new and effective recycling methods and use bio-based raw materials for production.

As an international plastics processor and family-owned company, we are aware of our responsibility and have identified sustainability as one of the most important strategic areas for the future of the company. “Acting responsibly” is not just an empty phrase for us, but a principle that guides us in terms of both our products and our actions. At Röchling, we are committed to promoting sustainability to preserve this world for future generations.

## **Newly established: Röchling Board Sustainability**

We have also adapted our organisational structure to this end. Because we know that the issue must be addressed pro-actively. There have to be people in charge who set impulses, contribute ideas and evaluate activities at the same time. For this purpose, we have established the cross-divisional Röchling Board Sustainability, which addresses the most important sustainability issues and prepares strategic decisions. As the person responsible for the Board on the Group Executive Board, it is a particular concern of mine to continue to drive the issue forward and to assume responsibility as a company for the community and for our employees.

Our aim is to further expand the share of sustainable products so as to save resources, reduce our environmental footprint and make our own processes and activities more sustainable. In doing so, we have our customers in mind at all times. We want our sustainability activities to create competitive advantages for our customers and support them in achieving their sustainability goals.

## **New sustainable product families**

For this purpose, we have developed two new product families, Röchling-BioBoom® and Röchling-ReLoop®, which we would like to present to you. With Röchling-BioBoom® for bioplastics, we promote the use of bio-based raw materials and reduce the use of fossil raw materials. With Röchling-ReLoop® for high-quality recyclates, we conserve valuable resources and close material cycles.

But our products based on fossil based raw materials also contribute to sustainability. For instance, our LubX® brand, which is primarily used in conveyor systems, has excellent sliding properties, allowing users to reduce their energy requirements and increase the efficiency of their systems. Or our pultruded Pulcaps®, which provide stability in the blades of wind turbines, thereby supporting the energy transition. Our fossil-based plastics make a major contribution to increasing sustainability in our customers' applications.

## **Focus on innovation and digitalisation**

In addition to the topic of sustainability, the digital transformation has also been driving us for some time. Our goal is to use the opportunities of digitalisation to develop innovative, high-quality products and services for our customers that give them a competitive edge. One example is our intelligent plastics equipped with sensors, which contribute significantly to process optimisation and maintenance. Or our new product SmartMarker®, which enables customers to identify and authenticate plastic components.



### Let's take sustainable steps together

As you see, we at Röchling have our eyes on the future. However, we are also aware that we can only achieve our goals together – with our suppliers, partners, employees and our customers.

For this purpose, we are continuously working to close loops and increase the proportion of recycled materials. In cooperation with our customers, we want to manage material flows even more efficiently and establish individual recycling cycles. A location opened specifically for the topic in Geeste-Dalum, Germany, is a first step in this direction.

I am confident that we can work together towards a more sustainable future. We look forward to meeting you at K 2022 and working with you to develop solutions for the world of tomorrow.

Franz Lübbers  
CEO Röchling Industrial

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Franz Lübbers,  
CEO Röchling Industrial

For reasons of legibility, the text may not distinguish between genders. All genders are addressed equally in all formulations – unless the context clearly implies a different interpretation.

# Acting responsibly

Dive into a sustainable world of plastics



## A waterfall splashes, tropical plants decorate the path and exotic animals hide in the thicket – welcome to the jungle, welcome to our trade fair stand K 2022.

However, one thing does not seem to fit the picture: a rusty old truck in the middle of the jungle. How did it get here? Perhaps it was left behind on an expedition, or maybe it was simply left here and forgotten.

Either way: the vehicle is no longer usable, its life cycle is over. Next stop: the junkyard. This is not how sustainability works. After all, valuable resources were used for its production. It also had an impact on the environment while it was being used. The car is a symbol of the possibilities that exist to make the life cycle more sustainable.

### Sustainable world of plastics

This is precisely the issue that concerns us. Like the truck, every product, regardless of the material, consumes resources and has an impact on the environment. At Röchling, we are aware of our responsibility towards the environment and community and are actively looking for ways to make our actions more sustainable.

We have developed two new product families, which we will present to you at the K 2022. With Röchling-BioBoom®

and Röchling-ReLoop®, we are continuously expanding our portfolio of bioplastics and high-quality recyclates. On your way through the jungle, you'll learn more about our sustainable products. From renewable raw materials, such as corn or sugar cane for our bio-based products, to secondary raw materials such as recyclates for the recycled materials, to semi-finished products and application examples – we want to show you all of this at our stand.

But our fossil-based products and our innovative smart products also contribute to sustainability during their use. They reduce energy consumption, save valuable resources due to their long service life and reduce maintenance and downtime. The stand will also provide insights into this matter.

Röchling  
ReLoop®

Röchling  
BioBoom®

### Acting responsibly

Together with you, we want to close loops, save resources and in that way increase the sustainability of our products in your applications. We view ourselves as a partner to our customers in achieving their sustainability goals. Acting responsibly is a principle we intend to pursue even more strongly in the coming years. We are already contributing to this today and developing new solutions to make our processes more sustainable. Bioplastics, the use of recycled materials and the reprocessing of plastics are the first ways to achieve this. Let's cooperate for new opportunities!



# More than just a feel-good topic

## Actively managing and pushing sustainability in the Röchling Group

Sustainability is one of the most frequently used buzzwords: it sounds positive, is perceived as part of every advertisement and dominates many debates – but the inflationary use also devalues the term. A complex topic is reduced to slogans.

Companies that deal intensively with sustainability quickly recognise how complex the topic is. Environmental, social and economic issues are intertwined and it quickly becomes evident: Sustainability is anything but a feel-good topic. Sustainability must be managed actively and systematically.

For this purpose, we at Röchling have created the Röchling Board Sustainability (RBS). Under the leadership of Franz Lübbers, CEO of Röchling Industrial and member of the Executive Board of the Röchling Group, it deals extensively with sustainability and prepares strategic decisions of the Executive Board as a whole. In doing so, we want to drive our own sustainability activities forward.

### Cross-divisional cooperation

A joint approach is particularly important to us. Each of our three divisions has one member in the RBS. As a group, we want to create synergies and continuously optimise our sustainability together. One of the key tasks is the further development of our sustainability strategy. For this, we continuously monitor and evaluate current sustainability issues and requirements from very different perspectives: our own ambitions, customers, industry and legislation.

### All employees' know-how in demand

However, sustainability must not be the task of the RBS alone, but should be actively lived as a joint task of our entire company. As a family-owned company, we want to be successful and sustainable – also for future generations. This requires the know-how of all departments and the commitment of all employees.

### A task on different levels

One aspect of our sustainability activities is the development of a sustainable product portfolio, which we present to you at the K 2022. But we also take a close look at our own production and business processes: For instance, we

have had several sites certified according to international sustainability standards, are increasingly using renewable energies by such means as photovoltaic systems and electrifying our fleet.

As a family-owned company, we naturally assume social responsibility and are particularly committed to our employees – for instance, through professional and personal support and a safe workplace. Training young talent also plays an important role for us. Every year, we offer many different apprenticeships at our locations to give young people a long-term and secure perspective.

“Especially in the plastics industry, sustainability will play a decisive role in the future success of the company. As a family business, we want to contribute to a sustainable future, continuously reduce our own environmental footprint and take responsibility,” says Lübbers.

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Franz Lübbers,  
CEO Röchling Industrial



# Empowering Industry.

## What does our slogan “Röchling Industrial. Empowering Industry.” mean? What do we expect from ourselves and what does this all have to do with sustainability?

“Röchling Industrial. Empowering Industry.” – that’s the slogan of our division – in English, of course, because our markets are international. “Empowering” means “to give someone strength, power or ability” and “Industry” refers to the industries of our customers, who come from all sectors – from general mechanical engineering to the electrical industry, from playground construction to the food industry.

With our plastics, our customers develop products for all areas that determine our lives. The global population is growing: How will people be reliably and safely supplied with energy in the future? Where are our food products produced and processed? How do people get from A to B quickly and safely using public transport? Together with our customers, we see these questions as an opportunity to develop new, innovative products. Our plastics improve industrial applications, increase efficiency and make new developments possible in the first place.

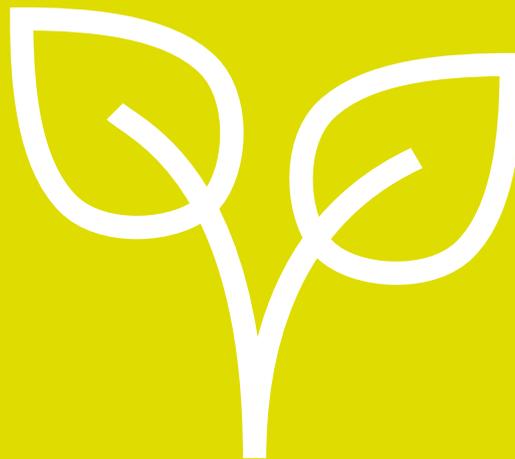
We are the only company in the world to offer a product range of thermoplastic and composite semi-finished products and machined finished parts in almost any dimension. We align our actions with the industries and aim to find the best solution for our customers’ applications across all materials. “Empowering Industry” means thinking from the perspective of our customers. No other supplier in the world can offer its customer such a broad knowledge of the properties, processing and application possibilities of plastics as us. But it also requires us not to lose sight of the

standards we have set ourselves: to be better than others in what we do and to improve constantly. “Empowering Industry” is an ongoing, never-ending process to strengthen our customers’ and our own competitiveness.

At the same time, we know that both we as a company and our customers have a responsibility towards the environment and the community. Sustainable management, the conservation of the environment and the conscious use of resources will become increasingly relevant for us and our customers in the coming years. Based on our two bands Röchling-ReLoop® and Röchling-BioBoom® we are taking a major step towards a circular economy and sustainability. In this way, we provide our customers with significant support in achieving their own goals with regard to the conservation of fossil resources, the recycling of materials and the reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. But it’s not only our

bio-based or recycled products that contribute thereto. Many of our fossil-based materials have also been contributing to sustainability for years. For instance, the good sliding properties or a low weight can reduce energy consumption. Many of our plastics are also used in the field of renewable energies, including for strengthening the rotor blades of wind turbines.

“Empowering Industry” therefore also means “Empowering Sustainability” – together with our customers for a sustainable future.



# New product families for more sustainability

One particularly important topic that has kept us busy in recent months is the expansion of a sustainable product portfolio. We are delighted to present our two new product families Röchling-ReLoop® and Röchling-BioBoom® at K 2022.

Röchling  
BioBOOM®



## Mass balancing

Mass balancing is an imputed approach. With regard to the production of plastics, a proportion of bio-based or recycled raw materials is added to the process at the beginning and an equal proportion is assigned to the end products in the calculation. This promotes the use of bio-based or recycled materials, similar to the principle of green electricity.

### The advantages at a glance:

- Conservation of fossil resources
- Promotion of bio-based or recycled raw materials
- Identical product properties as fossil-based materials
- No adaptation of processing equipment or processes required

## More bio-based raw materials with Röchling-BioBoom®

Reducing fossil raw materials and using bio-based materials – that's what we want to achieve with our products from the Röchling-BioBoom® family. This includes both bio-based materials and mass-balanced bioplastics.

Bio-based raw materials such as used cooking oil, beechwood, corn or sugar cane can be used for our Röchling-BioBoom® products. With mass-balanced bioplastics, we promote the use of bio-based raw materials while maintaining the proven property profile of fossil plastics. For this, we have already had several of our sites certified according to the international ISCC PLUS standard. ISCC PLUS (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification) is one of the world's leading certification schemes for the use of bio-based and recycled raw materials. Companies from various industries worldwide can be certified according to ISCC PLUS for the sustainable use of bio-based raw materials. Certification enables transparent traceability throughout the entire supply chain.





#### Post-consumer recycling (PCR)

comprises materials that are produced in households, public, commercial and industrial facilities after their use phase and can no longer be used for their intended purpose.

#### Post-industrial recycling (PIR)

uses material that is generated as waste during the manufacturing process. It is recycled and can be reused as a raw material for the production of other plastic products.

Röchling  
ReLoop®

#### Röchling-ReLoop® for high-quality recyclates

Based on our Röchling-ReLoop® product family for high-quality recycled materials, we conserve valuable resources and close material cycles. We use offcuts of our customers and from our production as well as post-consumer waste to process high-quality plastic products. Röchling-ReLoop® is available as a **post-consumer recycled product (PCR)** and a **post-industrial recycled product (PIR)**. In this way, we actively contribute to increasing sustainability throughout the entire life cycle.

Strengthening the circular economy is one of the most important tasks in the plastics industry. We want to channel material flows sensibly and even more efficiently into sustainable paths. We have long-term partnerships with many of our customers in which we take back plastic scrap sorted by type. We reprocess the offcuts into a recyclate and use it in our production to make high-quality new products. This way, we jointly reduce the amount of waste and close the material cycle.

#### Focus on the customer

Even with our new product families, we keep one thing in mind – our customers. We provide support both in terms of sustainability goals and technical requirements with in-depth knowledge and high-quality materials. Because sustainability and engineering go hand in hand with us. We see ourselves as a partner to our customers, working together to jointly achieve sustainability goals and develop customised, sustainable solutions for individual applications.



## Smart, smarter, our customers

### Smart plastics reduce downtime, optimise processes and improve sustainability

Digitalization, the Internet of Things (IoT), and networking – the world has never been more connected and digital. There have never been more technologies and solutions that open up completely new possibilities.

At Röchling, we have been working on the opportunities of the digital world for a long time. In doing so, we always focus on one question: Which technologies can we use to benefit our customers?

#### New generation of intelligent plastics

We are sure that we have found a solution to the question. With our Smart Plastics, we are digitising the products for our customers. For this purpose, Röchling Industrial offers plastic components equipped with sensors that monitor various parameters in our customers' applications. Whether temperature, pressure or wear – continuous measurement, collection and transmission of data enables our customers to optimise their processes. A core task of every company.

To this end, we not only equip our plastic components with the appropriate sensors, we have also developed a smart box that collects the data and transmits it to our IoT platform Portus®. This is where the data is bundled and evaluated. If a parameter exceeds the target value, an error message is triggered and the customer is informed.

#### Optimal processes for greater productivity and less downtime

With our Smart Plastics, we have developed a new generation of smart plastics that is unique to the industry. This enables us to reduce downtime for our customers, optimise maintenance times and transparently monitor our customers' processes.

The intelligent plastic products are already being used, for instance, in the conveying of bulk materials to monitor the wear of impact plates. Our smart components also protect our customers' systems in the paper industry from overheating, thus contributing to increased machine productivity and safety. Where else can our smart products be used? In any industry that wants to optimise processes.

### SmartMarker® – Unique identifier for plastic parts

In addition to the intelligent components equipped with sensors, we have developed another innovative technology together with our cooperation partner, Polysecure GmbH: SmartMarker®. It enables our customers to uniquely identify and authenticate their plastic components. For this purpose, we equip our plastic with marker particles that give the product a unique identifier without influencing the technical properties and appearance.

For authentication, customers can use a specially adapted hand scanner to quickly and easily check whether the component was manufactured by them. If the markers tailored to the customer are contained in the component, the scanner shows a positive signal and the authentication was successful. However, the new technology can also enable the unique identification of a specific component. For this purpose, a reference surface is determined on the component, whose individual and random particle pattern can be assigned to the component as an unmistakable fingerprint. In this way, parts can be precisely determined and identified.

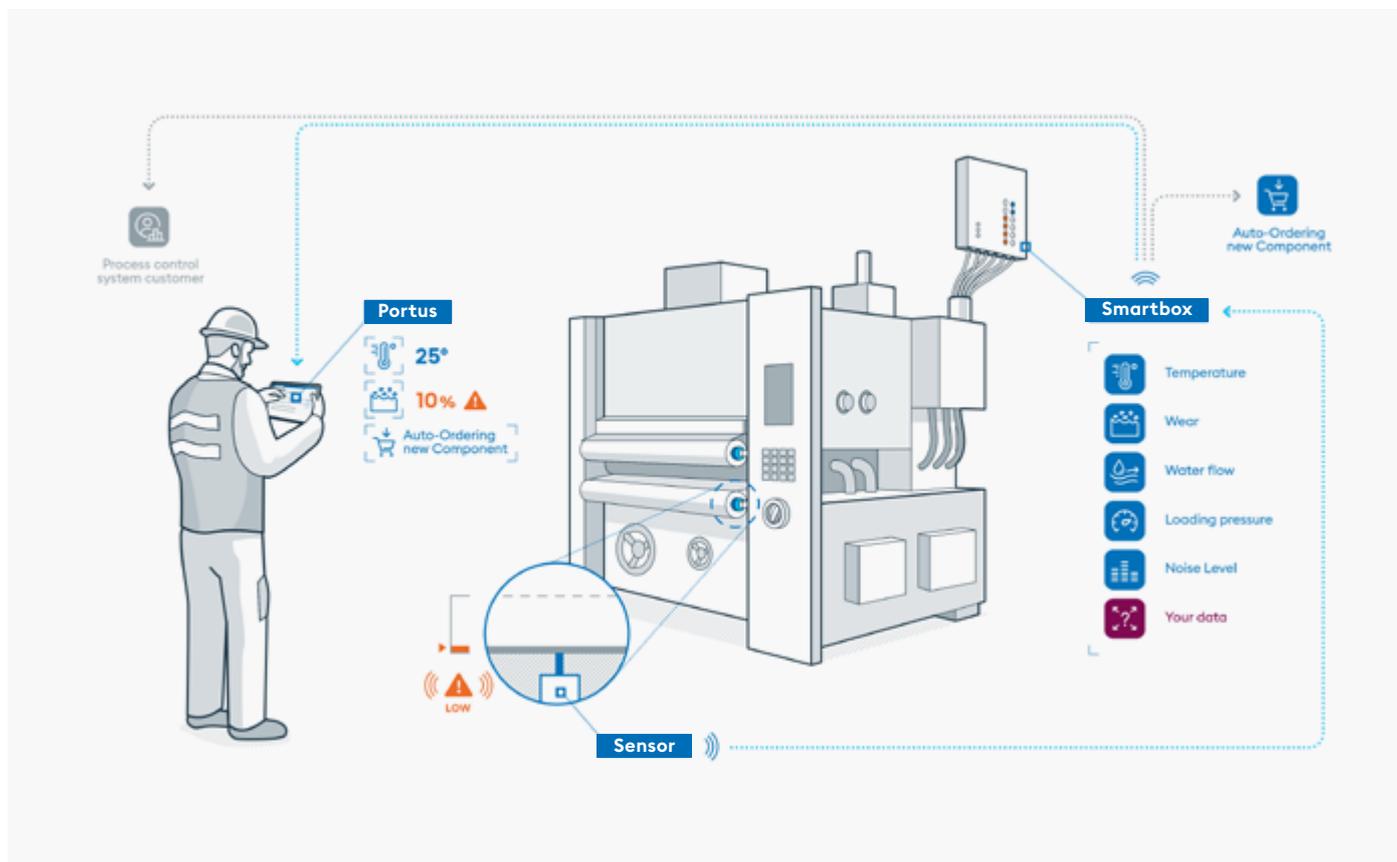
At Röchling Industrial, we are also breaking new ground with the SmartMarker® and always have one thing in mind: the

benefits in the applications of our customers. SmartMarker® with its unmistakable identifier, for instance, supports the prevention of unjustified complaints, protection from counterfeit products and the creation of digital product passports. Sustainability also plays a role here. Recycling loops can be closed more efficiently and more simply by using our marker technology, because pieces of plastic scrap are reliably identified and can be recycled according to type.

### Research and development for the future

At Röchling Industrial, we know that in the future, we will be developing further exciting opportunities to support our customers with innovative products in their applications. We are ready to walk the path together with them and seize the opportunities.

For more information on SmartMarker®, check our website.

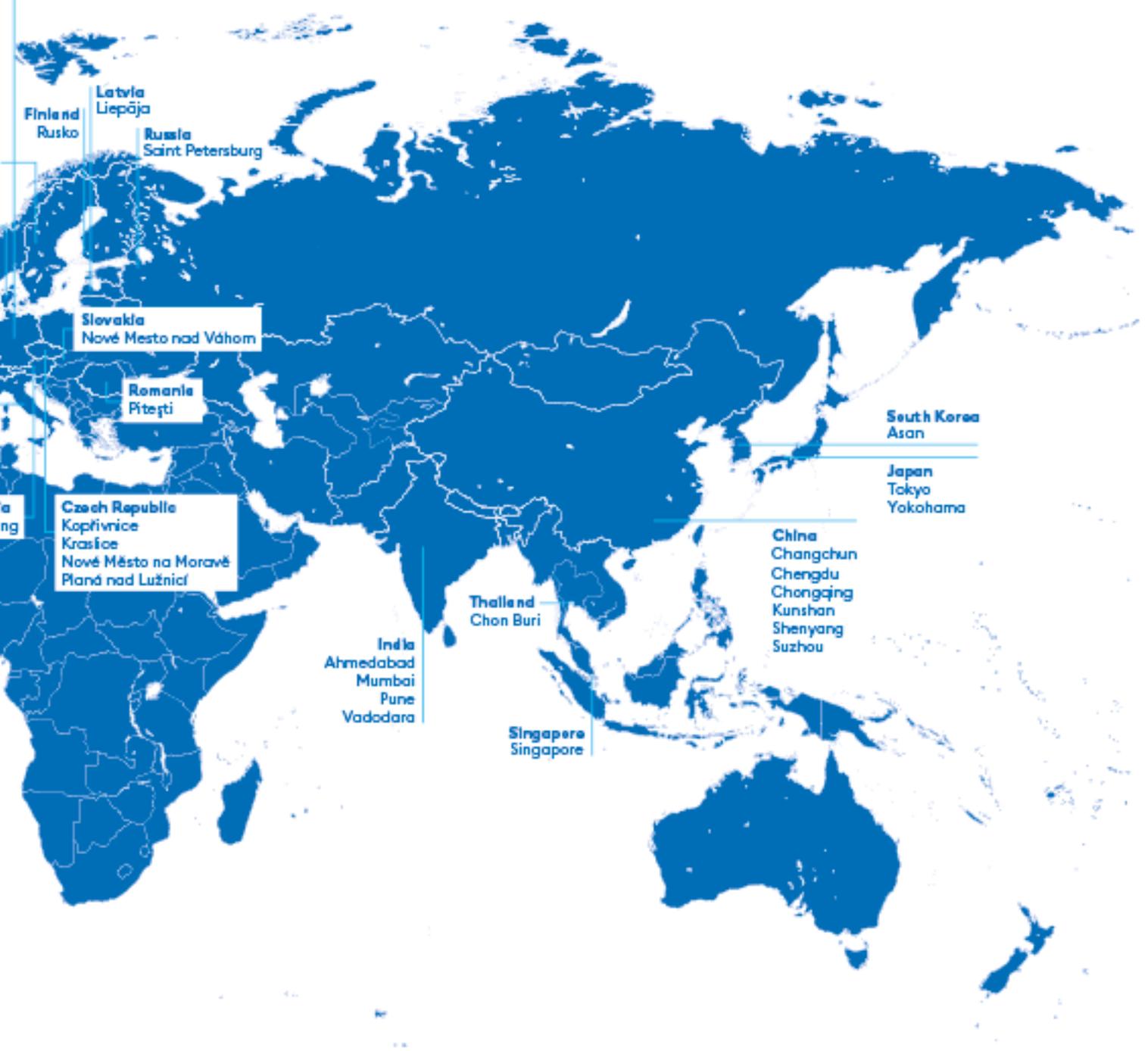



# Your partner anywhere in the world

91 sites in 25 countries



- |                     |               |                    |             |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Germany</b>      |               |                    |             |
| Mannheim (HQ)       | Ingolstadt    | Neuhaus am Rennweg | Wackersdorf |
| Arnstadt            | Lahnstein     | Peine              | Waldachtal  |
| Bad Grönenbach-Thal | Laupheim      | Roding             | Weidenberg  |
| Brensbach           | Lützen        | Rüsselsheim        | Worms       |
| Cologne             | Mainburg      | Ruppertsweiler     | Xanten      |
| Gernsbach           | Munich        | Stuttgart          |             |
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## Let's increase sustainability together



### Your partner for achieving your sustainability goals

The sustainable design of our own processes plays an important role for us. In order to increase sustainability and transparency along the entire value chain, we have already had several locations certified according to the international standard ISCC PLUS. ISCC PLUS (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification) is one of the world's leading certification schemes for the use of bio-based and recycled raw materials. The aim is to reduce the use of fossil raw materials and conserve resources.

We also want to strengthen the topic of circular economy with our customers. Together, we can use material flows and resources more efficiently. Offcuts often accumulate during the production of plastic parts – valuable resources that might be thrown away. By taking back sorted scrap from our customers and reprocessing it into valuable products, we protect the environment and at the same time build long-term partnerships.

Are you interested in closing your recycling loop with us? Feel free to contact us!



Visit our homepage for more information about our sustainability activities and our new product lines **Röchling-BioBoom®** and **Röchling-ReLoop®**.



Would you like to know how our high-quality products are used in industrial applications? We have also prepared some exciting stories and background reports for you. Feel free to drop by!

