

The REMONDIS Group magazine

# REMONDIS AKTUELL

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Working for the Future –  
Being climate neutral

ELECTRICITY AND HYDROGEN PAVE THE  
WAY FOR CLIMATE-NEUTRAL LOGISTICS

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AKTUELL

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K:RE 2020E

**Europe lies close to his heart**

Norbert Rethmann receives the Europe Medal

**Improving cities in passing**

DataFleet provides data about streets and neighbourhoods to improve cityscapes

**Phoenix rising from the ashes**

Renovating Duisburg's Love Parade site

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**Dear Readers!**

There is good cause for celebration! 30 years of a unified Germany. Or perhaps we should say: '30 years of working on a unified Germany'? Seen from a historical perspective, it is certainly true to say that the reunification process has not yet been completed. In fact, looking at Germany's history, you might well be excused for thinking that this process will never be completed. Each individual region has its own cultural peculiarities, its own dialect, its own sensibilities, its own breed of people. And, of course, their traditional dishes are worlds apart from each other. But that's the way it should be as it is the differences that create a strong dynamic for change and enrich our culture and economy. Having said all that, we are still quite a young nation. Germany really hasn't been around that long. Our country – as a federation of states – did not come into being until almost 100 years after the United States of America was founded. And we are all well aware that they are still working hard on unifying their nation.

We are very grateful that our family-run business has been able to play a constructive role in shaping the reunification process from the start. While criticism continues to be directed towards the Treuhand (the agency responsible for privatising the former East German enterprises) for the way it acted – its focus was often on processing rather than developing – our aim has always been on finding robust, future-oriented solutions by working closely on the ground with the different city and regional authorities. The results speak for themselves – whether it be in the Lausitz region where our public private joint venture WAL Betrieb provides water management services and has kept fees and charges stable and jobs secure for decades now despite the region's declining population; or in Schwerin, where the public private partnership between the city and REMONDIS has been hugely successful at delivering key services cost effectively. And these are just two examples of many. It was – and continues to be – the amazing personal dedication of the company's employees in the regions that made it possible for REMONDIS to become a local east German family-run business in these new areas after the wall fell. What's more, some of the family moved from the Westphalian town of Selm to make their home in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern – but this just as a side note. Unity requires active commitment, as does sustainable development. REMONDIS is dedicated to both, always working with the future in mind.



Ludger Rethmann, REMONDIS Board Chairman

One thing is certain: there are a lot of things still – or once again – to be done. The recession brought on by Covid-19 is having a dramatic impact on the finances of local authorities. According to the Federal Statistical Office, the cities and districts faced a shortfall of 9.7 billion euros in the first six months of this year. As a comparison: the deficit amounted to just 0.3 billion euros a year ago. The reason for this negative trend was the drastic fall in revenue received by local governments in the second quarter of 2020. The German economy nosedived by 9.7% between April and June – the first time it has ever had to face such a huge drop. Yet another reason then for thinking about how the pressure can be taken off local governments in the future. They don't have to do everything by themselves – the private sector is happy to help. Public private partnerships are a robust solution for delivering cost-intensive essential services, such as waste management and water management tasks. I and Professor Michael Schäfer, retired professor of public sector economics at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, illustrate this very clearly with the help of many examples in one of the books we co-authored – and we don't forget to mention the negative examples either. As everyone knows, people learn from their mistakes so they can do a better job in the future. And this is precisely what we are doing together with our friends and partners in the not so new states in the east of Germany, in Europe and across the world.

We hope you enjoy reading this latest issue. Stay safe!

Yours

Ludger Rethmann

# Working for the Future – Being climate-neutral

## REMONDIS STEPS UP ITS COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE-NEUTRAL LOGISTICS

Since its first move towards using clean refuse collection vehicles run on carbon-neutral biogas (as reported in the last issue of REMONDIS AKTUELL), the company has steadfastly continued its efforts to make its fleet of waste collection trucks as climate-neutral as possible. It has, for example, introduced its first battery-run refuse collection vehicle in the City of Cologne. A similar test has been up and running in Switzerland since the middle of the year. And the possibilities of running trucks on hydrogen and fuel cells is being looked into in Gifhorn, a town in the German state of Lower Saxony. One thing is very clear: the days of the internal combustion engine in the circular economy are numbered as well.

REMONDIS has begun trialling a battery-run Mercedes-Benz eActros in Cologne. This 25-tonne lorry has a range of around 200 kilometres and REMONDIS is initially using it to transport new, damaged and/or repaired waste bins. This all-electric eActros should also be driven in areas that conventional trucks are not permitted to use. The eActros's batteries are recharged overnight at REMONDIS' maintenance depot in the city district of Rodenkirchen.

REMONDIS is testing the eActros in collaboration with its sister company Rhenus, a logistics specialist, as a joint project looking into alternative fuels. Cologne is the ideal setting for putting the battery-run eActros through its paces as these urban trips can be precisely planned and involve a great deal of stopping and starting.

Stephan Krings, managing director of REMONDIS Rhineland, explained: "Being the biggest waste management business in Germany, sustainability and resource conservation are essential cornerstones of our company's philosophy and influence all of REMONDIS' activities. In line with this philosophy, the eActros in Cologne should perform its municipal tasks quietly and protect the environment at the same time – also on the roads where diesel-run vehicles are banned. Both we and our sister company Rhenus are really looking forward to seeing the eActros carry out its work in Cologne's city centre and to hear the feedback from our drivers."

(from left to right) Heinz Uliczka, Sales Manager at LKW Mercedes Benz Dortmund, Wuppertal, Cologne, Sascha Hähnke, Managing Director Rhenus Transport GmbH, Stephan Krings, Managing Director REMONDIS Rhineland, and Peter Lindlar, Managing Director REMONDIS Wertstoffrecycling GmbH (Cologne), at the handover of their new eActros



**“The eActros is proving to be a local carbon-neutral alternative for urban traffic.”**

Sascha Hähnke, Managing Director Rhenus Transport

#### **REMONDIS Gifhorn – Hydrogen a further alternative**

Hydrogen, though, should also be included in a company's long-term strategy to decarbonise its fleet of trucks. Which is why REMONDIS has joined forces with FAUN, a manufacturer of refuse collection vehicles. The two firms began holding test runs in September to record data and get the information needed to enable hydrogen-run vehicles to be deployed. The test runs are due to have been completed by the end of the year. The recorded data should help to both plan logistics and provide details about what vehicle technology will be required. REMONDIS North's associated company BEG has also been working with FAUN since 2017: together, they have been successfully trialling an all-electric refuse collection vehicle in Bremerhaven as part of a government-funded pilot project. The hydrogen alternative would, in fact, involve this technology combined with a fuel cell and hydrogen tank so that the trucks can travel greater distances in rural environments. Deploying hydrogen-run vehicles in the waste management sector can, therefore, help local regions to achieve their climate targets.

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#### **Transdev invests in electric buses in the Netherlands**

In the meantime, Transdev has been continuing to grow its fleet of electric buses in the Netherlands. Having built up a fleet made up exclusively of electric buses in Eindhoven, REMONDIS' associated business Transdev will be launching a fleet of 74 battery-run buses in the Gooi and Vecht region on 11 July 2021. Moreover, the company intends to add a further 156 electric buses to its operations in Haarlem and Amsterdam at the end of 2020.



Sascha Hähnke, managing director of Rhenus Transport, commented: "At Rhenus, 'green logistics' is a reflection of the company's core values and of how it sees itself as a global logistics provider. Protecting the environment and handling resources responsibly, therefore, are an integral part of our corporate strategy. Which is why we feel it is so important to try out alternative fuels and use the best technology available on the market." The many findings from the first test phase have shown that the eActros's approx. 200-kilometre range is absolutely realistic – no matter what the load, stretch of road or topography. When it comes to availability and performance, the eActros is just as good as conventional diesel-run trucks in the cities, on motorways and on country roads – as well as in hot and cold weather. The drivers benefit as the truck is so much quieter and the ride much smoother. Electrical energy is harnessed by recuperation, which also reduces wear and tear on the brakes. The eActros is, therefore, proving to be a local carbon-neutral alternative for urban lorry work. The batteries are fully recharged within two hours with a 150kW charging point.

Initial trials also began on an all-electric, battery-run refuse collection vehicle in Switzerland this summer. This prototype, owned by Futuricum, is being tested in Wallisellen at K. Müller AG, a REMONDIS subsidiary. The operational performance of the truck as it carries out a 'normal day's work' has certainly been positive so far. However, it is not possible to ignore the maths. It costs considerably more to purchase such a truck in Switzerland compared to other vehicles, which means large numbers are unlikely to be bought in the near future.

# Improving cities in passing

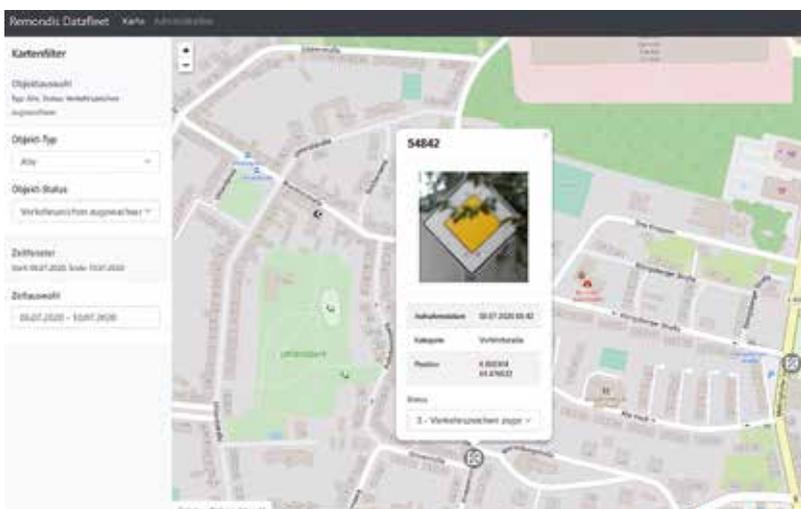
SMART, INNOVATIVE AND CUSTOMER-ORIENTED: DATAFLEET PROVIDES INFO ABOUT STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS



Just imagine this situation: while emptying the bins, refuse collection trucks use a camera and software to record traffic signs that are dirty, damaged or hidden by vegetation, road markings that have faded or even potential hazards caused by potholes and uneven pavement slabs. This data is processed via an automated and data protection compliant system and then passed on to the city authorities so they can arrange for the repair work to be carried out.

DataFleet, REMONDIS Innovation Hub's very first project, has made all this possible. Quite literally 'in passing'. Along a waste collection route, for example, as refuse collection trucks not only drive through the city and rural districts on a regular basis, they also go up and down practically every single street.

At the moment, city employees normally drive through their towns, noting down any problems – usually on paper – and then pass this information on to the relevant city department. This work can now be performed far more efficiently with the automated DataFleet system, which has been marketed by REMONDIS Digital Services GmbH since the third quarter of this year and is already being used in several regions. This system genuinely adds value to the work performed by local authorities as they are responsible for ensuring their streets are safe and fit for purpose. DataFleet is currently being developed for further applications: the system should, for example, soon be able to automatically recognise fly-tipping. The team are in regular contact with their customers and the system's users to find out where else the system could be used.



DataFleet, the software solution that makes cities cleaner and safer: it uses optical sensors and artificial intelligence installed in the vehicle to record automated, data protection compliant and needs-based information about potential risks and problems in the city. This data is then sent with images and the geo coordinates to a cloud-based database, which can be accessed by the local authorities and REMONDIS companies



# Anything but analogue

REMONDIS INNOVATION HUB UP AND RUNNING IN HAMBURG FOR OVER A YEAR NOW

Data, software, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence – this is what the new REMONDIS Innovation Hub (RIH) is all about. Set up as a separate department in the Business Development division run by Sven Averhage, it comprises five young colleagues who meet in a co-working space in Hamburg to assess and realise ideas to enhance current REMONDIS services or to introduce new ones.

“RIH’s primary goal is to develop marketable solutions. That means that we’re not simply looking at testing new technologies but at implementing ideas that will offer REMONDIS some genuine digital advantages and add value to its business,” explained Dr Felix Thiele. Together with Johannes Schön and Daniel Natrup, it was he who launched RIH last year. The team has already created its first marketable product – its DataFleet project – which is being marketed by the newly founded firm, REMONDIS Digital Services GmbH.

Other projects are focusing on subjects such as AI-based analyses of video material from sewer inspections and the use of data analyses to optimise pumping stations as well as setting up a dynamic route planning system using sensors measuring bin fill levels. Finding ways of identifying outthrow material in organic waste bins using a combination of optical and digital technology and artificial intelligence is also on their to-do list. What’s more, this team of digital experts has also been helping to further develop the international skip and container services platform, Redooo.

## Optimising offers & making strategic investments

To realise its projects, RIH has often found itself collaborating with external specialist firms and start-up businesses – potentially creating opportunities to invest in young, up-and-coming companies. To make this possible, the department has generated its own directory that lists all start-ups around the world that operate in one or more of REMONDIS’ business divisions (recycling, water and services). The team is, therefore, also the first port of call for in-house ideas and external start-ups as well as for other companies that wish to contact REMONDIS about innovative subjects. Just recently, for example, REMONDIS purchased a share in Westphalia DataLab in Münster. This company, which employs around 50 people, is looking at ways of using software to make the benefits of artificial intelligence available to everyone. And their prospects are obviously good: RWTH Aachen University’s Smart Services Center recently named this Münster-based firm a “Champion of Machine Learning”.



“DataFleet should open up opportunities for PPP firms and REMONDIS companies to generate business and, potentially, be commissioned by local authorities to rectify any problems they may detect. The product makes it easy for them to check for, spot and then quickly sort out problems,” explained Johannes Schön, who runs REMONDIS Digital Services GmbH together with Dr Felix Thiele

**“We want to implement ideas that will offer REMONDIS some genuine digital advantages and add value to its business.”**

Dr Felix Thiele, RIH

Working for the future: REMONDIS Innovation Hub’s five-strong team works on digital products and services from their base in Hamburg (from left to right: Benjamin Hepburn, Dr Felix Thiele, Daniel Natrup, Heidi Frölich and Johannes Schön).

Each quarter, they report to the members of RIH’s steering committee, Thomas Conzendorf, Egbert Tölle and Sven Averhage. The team can be reached at [rih@remondis.de](mailto:rih@remondis.de)



# Norbert Rethmann awarded the Europe Medal

FOR EXCEPTIONAL COMMITMENT TO BUSINESS IN GERMANY AND THE EU

On 26 August 2020, Norbert Rethmann, honorary chairman of the supervisory board of the REMONDIS Group, was presented with the Europamedaille [Europe Medal] by the CDU/CSU European Parliamentary Group. Dennis Radtke, MEP, coordinator of the EPP Group's Committee for Employment and Social Affairs, and Chair of the CDA in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, travelled to Selm, the town where Norbert Rethmann was born, to hand over the medal.



Another award for a great European: Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the REMONDIS Group, being presented with the Europe Medal by the CDU/CSU European Parliamentary Group

The award was presented to Norbert Rethmann in recognition of his exceptional commitment to business in the European member states as well as for his outstanding achievements in setting up and shaping the European industry federation, FEAD.

During his speech at the official awards ceremony, MEP Dennis Radtke stressed the urgent need to strengthen Europe during this unprecedented period. Entrepreneurship, he said, was essential here and the business acumen that Norbert Rethmann had shown throughout his career so far was a perfect example of this – especially his willingness to invest in people. Radtke focused attention on the fact that the business sector must offer young people in Europe a positive vision. If it failed to do this, there could be no real vision for Europe either. In his reply, Norbert Rethmann acknowledged Dennis Radtke's words, saying that he had always invested in people in the past, for example by concluding agreements with employees and their representatives to ensure stability. He urged entrepreneurs across the country not just to call for a strong state but to take action themselves.

Norbert Rethmann's career has reflected this belief. Indeed, he began working at European level many years ago. By the beginning of the 1980s, it had become clear that the framework conditions governing waste management across the EU member states was being increasingly influenced by Brussels. European waste management businesses realised that they needed to have a strong body representing their interests in the European institutions and Norbert Rethmann played a key role in setting up the European Federation for Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD) in 1981. The founding members were the Bundesverband der Deutschen Entsorgungswirtschaft e. V. (BDE; at that time based in Cologne), the Fédération Nationale des Activités du Déchet (FAND) in Paris, and the National Association of Waste Disposal Contractors (NAWDC) in London.

Right from the start, Norbert Rethmann showed his commitment towards the European federation FEAD, whose foundation came about thanks to his and Gustav-Dieter Edelhoff's resourcefulness. He was president of FEAD from 1984 to 1990, during which time he played a decisive role in shaping the development of the European waste management sector – driving it towards becoming a genuine recycling industry focused on maximum levels of sustainability. The fact that his profoundly Europe-friendly ideas were – and still are – of visionary character is reflected today in the European Green Deal where recycling plays such an important part. Norbert Rethmann realised at a very early stage that it would not be possible to truly curb climate change and conserve resources unless there was a concerted effort across Europe to grow recycling activities.

And so, in recognition of his achievements in coordinating the interests of the circular economy businesses in the different EU member states, he was presented with the CDU/CSU Europe Medal in his home town of Selm on 26 August.

# PPPs dedicated to key services: It's time to talk, rethink and act

BERLIN PANEL DISCUSSION CALLS FOR THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO COLLABORATE

The coronavirus pandemic has not only had a negative impact on industrial businesses and SMEs. Local authorities are also finding themselves under huge financial pressure. They are having to perform a juggling act at the moment with their business tax revenue having plummeted by up to 70% and their costs continuing to rise as they try to overcome the crisis. Ludger Rethmann, REMONDIS board chairman and vice-president of the Transdev Group, and Prof. Michael Schäfer, retired professor of public sector economics at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, travelled to Berlin recently to meet with other high-profile guests and take part in a panel discussion held under the aegis of Dr Reiner Haseloff, minister president of the German state of Saxony-Anhalt. The subject: how best to deliver key services in the future.

Public private partnerships (PPPs) are by no means obsolete nowadays. They are just looked at from too narrow a perspective. This is at least the opinion of the two authors, Prof. Michael Schäfer and Ludger Rethmann, who have had two books published by SpringerGabler this year: 'Öffentlich-Private Partnerschaften. Auslaufmodell oder eine Strategie für kommunale Daseinsvorsorge?' [Public private partnerships. A discontinued model or a strategy for providing essential public services?] and 'Öffentlich-Private Daseinsvorsorge (ÖPD) in Deutschland. Gemischtwirtschaftliche Unternehmen auf kommunaler Ebene als strategischer Erfolgsfaktor' [PPPs dedicated to providing key services in Germany. Public-private joint ventures at local authority level as a strategic success factor]. In both these books, they provide plenty of facts to show how, over the past few years, both the media and the scientific community have primarily focused their attention on PPPs involved in infrastructure projects. While there have been a few successful projects in this area, this segment has had more than its fair share of scandals, fraudulent dealings and poor performances, all of which tend to make it into the headlines.



In contrast, both authors focus on the myriad of long-standing successful collaborations that are dedicated to delivering essential public services. These are primarily municipal companies, which have sold a share of their business to a private sector partner with high levels of expertise. These PPP companies, which are normally majority owned by the local authority, do not make the headlines because they generally work smoothly, are structured to run over a long period of time and benefit both parties. As far as both authors are concerned, one thing is certain: it will be practically impossible for compartmentalised, local structures to overcome the upcoming challenges on their own – whether it involves demography, digitisation, sustainability or infrastructure. Local authorities need to work with partners. The authors' fact-based conclusion: "There are indeed top PPP companies. Joint ventures set up between the public and private sectors to deliver essential public services have become the norm when the parties work together closely and sensibly".

(from left to right) Ludger Rethmann, REMONDIS Board Chairman and Vice President of the Transdev Group, Dr Reiner Haseloff, Minister President of the state of Saxony-Anhalt, and Prof. Michael Schäfer, Professor of Public Sector Economics



Order a copy of Ludger Rethmann and Prof. Michael Schäfer's book online

Conscious of the safety measures in place, the representative group of apprentices wore face coverings and maintained their distance in front of REMONDIS' head office in Lünen

# The future is strong – with good apprenticeships

REMONDIS CONTINUES TO TRAIN FUTURE TALENT – COVID-19 ACCENTUATES THE NEED FOR APPRENTICESHIPS



The traditional party, held under the patronage of the honorary chairman of the supervisory board, Norbert Rethmann, and organised to welcome REMONDIS' new apprentices, was a smaller affair this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 27 young people from a variety of apprenticeship courses were invited to attend the event in the foyer of REMONDIS' head office building in Lünen to welcome them to the company – with appropriate social distancing and hygiene measures maintained at all times.

Things are not easy at the moment with the coronavirus pandemic causing the German economy to shrink by between 5.6% and 10%. Indeed, there has been nothing like it since the Second World War. The impact has been massive on many industries, especially on sectors that depend on people getting together – such as tourism, transport services (local, regional and national) and aircraft construction as well as all those involved in organising cultural and sports events. In contrast, sectors delivering essential services, i.e. services that must be provided to keep public life running smoothly, have officially been given 'key worker' status by the German government. These include the health care sector as well as the recycling industry and, consequently, REMONDIS as one of the leading companies providing recycling and water management services to its municipal, commercial and industrial customers.

You just need to take a look at the way the German economy has developed since the second quarter of this year, when the pandemic first hit the country, to know that it could not be taken for granted that companies would continue offering

apprenticeship courses. Expecting to face a deep recession, many companies – both large and small – have held back planned investments, furloughed their staff and frozen or even reduced the number of apprentices on their payroll. REMONDIS and its sister companies Rhenus and SARIA have braced themselves against this trend and steadfastly continued to train young people – an important cornerstone in their strategy to counteract skills shortages and ensure their industries have a sustainable future.

Training young talent is, REMONDIS believes, one of the most promising ways of achieving this. All in all, REMONDIS offers apprenticeship courses in over 30 commercial and industrial/technical professions. These young people are taught additional skills on top of the standard content of their courses. In 2019, for example, the company began a campaign to teach apprentices about the potential risks they may face during their everyday work. Speakers and specialists travelled to 15 different company locations to hold workshops and raise awareness about health and safety in the workplace.

As of the beginning of the 2020 apprenticeship year, a total of



## 2,100 apprentices

are learning a profession at the RETHMANN Group

Both the fact that REMONDIS has been presented with numerous apprenticeship awards over the years and that its apprentices have won many different competitions are a clear sign that it offers high quality courses. LWG Lausitzer Wasser, a collaboration between the City of Cottbus and REMONDIS Aqua, for example, has trained 'Germany's best plant mechanic apprentice' on seven different occasions. There was also a big success at the German Championship for Industrial Insulators in 2019: the winner of the competition was an apprentice from XERVON for the third year running.

### This year's apprenticeship figures portray a very positive picture

Looking at the RETHMANN firms and associated companies excluding Transdev (public transport), then a total of 2,100 young people are currently doing an apprenticeship within the Group, 590 of whom began their course at the beginning of this apprenticeship year on 01 August. If Transdev, the Group's newest associated company, is added to these figures then this number rises to 2,194 apprentices. Unlike many other medium-sized businesses, therefore, REMONDIS is continuing to pursue its robust apprenticeship programme.

REMONDIS, the company in the family-run Group with the longest history, offers the most apprenticeship jobs: a total of 1,273 people are learning a profession there, 406 of whom began this August. Its sister company Rhenus currently employs 748 apprentices (166 newcomers in 2020). SARIA SE & CO. KG, an international company based in Selm, has 79 young people at its firm doing an apprenticeship, 18 of whom started this year.

RETHMANN owns a 34% share in the French Transdev Group, one of the world's biggest providers of public transport services. 94 apprentices started an apprenticeship at a Transdev business in Germany this year. And they all have excellent chances of being taken on at the end of their course as most of the services that the REMONDIS Group offer are essential, even when the economy is going through a difficult period.

So the only question that remains is what professions these young people are most interested in. The trend seen in past years continues unchanged at REMONDIS this year as well. Once again, the truck driver apprenticeship course attracted the biggest group of newcomers (337 apprentices), followed by those wishing to become industrial management assistants (175 apprentices) and office management assistants (94 apprentices). Courses for future chemical technicians, mechatronics engineers and other technical professions also proved to be popular.

REMONDIS' core business focuses on delivering a wide range of essential services covering the fields of recycling, municipal and industrial services and water management. This means that, even during the Covid crisis, the company can continue to offer apprenticeships with strong career prospects in the future-proof sectors: sustainability, climate action and resource conservation. Many of REMONDIS' divisions have already begun accepting applications for next year's courses. Those interested can apply online.

They can also take part in a self-assessment test on the company's careers website, [remondis-karriere.de](http://remondis-karriere.de), to discover which types of job best suit their qualifications and potential. What's more, REMONDIS can also be found on Instagram where it presents its apprenticeship and degree courses and provides an insight into a variety of professions. Life will continue after Covid and a good apprenticeship is the best way to carve out a positive future.

Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the REMONDIS Group, welcoming this year's intake of apprentices to the company



To find out more about apprenticeships at REMONDIS go to [remondis-karriere.de](http://remondis-karriere.de)



# Collaboration continues in Frankfurt

PARTNERSHIP CONCLUDED FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS FOLLOWING EU-WIDE TENDER



REMONDIS shall continue to provide waste management and recycling services to the City of Frankfurt am Main for the next 20 years as well. In close consultation with the EU Commission, the city authorities put 49% of the shares in Frankfurter Entsorgungs- und Service GmbH (FES), a public private joint venture, out for tender in an EU-wide procurement process. The partnership, which has been a success since 1998, has, therefore, been extended until 2040.



Lord Mayor Peter Feldmann (right), Mayor and Councillor Uwe Becker (left) and Rosemarie Heilig, head of the council's environmental department (centre)

Besides giving the City of Frankfurt permission to put the shares out to tender, the EU also allowed them to renegotiate the framework agreement and three service agreements (covering waste collection/management, city cleaning and winter services and organic waste recycling activities) with FES at the same time as well as to harmonise their content and timeframes.

“Awarding FES with the contract for a 20-year partnership is a real asset to the City of Frankfurt, to all our local residents as well as to FES itself. By concluding these waste management and city cleaning agreements, the delivery of these key services is now guaranteed and high quality standards have been set out in writing, all of which will help ensure fees and charges remain stable.”

‘One-stop cleaning services’ were also added to the agreements. From 2021 onwards, defined services that had been agreed on by contract between the city authorities and FES in the past (such as managing public toilets, cleaning bus/trams stops located above ground and maintaining green areas next to roads) can now be assigned straight to FES by the council’s different departments without having to put them out to tender beforehand. The “FES 2040” consortium agreement also stipulates that investments should be made in digitisation so that the exact amounts of waste can be recorded as well as in further improving environmental standards in the area of waste collection, treatment and recycling. Moreover, FES’ fleet should continue to shift towards low-emission and low-noise vehicles and machinery, a pilot plant for using hydrogen technology should be set up and the heat generated by the organic waste composting activities should be fed into the city’s district heat network. Completely in line with our motto, therefore: ‘working for the future’.

The FAZ newspaper obviously agrees with this as well. Mechthild Harting, editor at the paper’s Rhine-Main editorial office, commented on the signing of the contract, saying: “It’s not possible to improve the market or the cost effectiveness here. Thanks to this agreement, the success story of this public private partnership that began back in 1998 can continue to be written.”



# A threefold success in the Rhine-Erft District

REMONDIS AND RETERRA HAVE ONCE AGAIN BEEN COMMISSIONED TO DELIVER A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES

REMONDIS submitted a number of successful bids for a range of waste management services put out to tender across Europe by the Rhine-Erft District, a region situated west of Cologne. The company's Rhineland team will continue to be responsible for running the ABA waste treatment plant for the next 15 years. Each year, this plant processes 90,000 tonnes of residual waste and 20,000 tonnes of bulky waste. What's more, RETERRA also handed in the best offer for recycling organic waste in the district.

## Protecting the environment in three shifts

ABA's core business is producing RAL-certified refuse-derived fuels (RDF). Each year, the approx. 30 employees working at the site produce around 45,000 tonnes of RDF from the residual and bulky waste. To make the operations as environmentally friendly and as efficient as possible, the amount of non-recyclable materials is kept to an absolute minimum. The RDF can be used as a substitute for primary raw materials at suitable coal-fired power stations and cement works: each tonne of RDF saves one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> compared to brown coal. A further 10,000 tonnes of RDF is produced from mixed plastics from the neighbouring light packaging sorting plant at the site, which is home to ABA and a number of other facilities. The light packaging sorting plant is also run by REMONDIS.

## But that's not all

RETERRA, a REMONDIS subsidiary, also won a contract during the tender process to recycle 59,000 tonnes of organic

waste and 9,000 tonnes of green waste. To win this project, the bidding companies also had to include a concept that enables electricity to be generated from this material. The composting plant, which has been in operation since 1995, will, therefore, now be extended to include both an anaerobic digester and a tunnel composting system so that RETERRA can produce green electricity from the organic waste – actively helping, therefore, to combat climate change. Thanks to this organic waste recycling contract, the future of the site and the jobs of the 26 people working there have been secured for the next ten years.

During the tender process, REMONDIS also won a contract to continue running a household waste recycling centre as well as to accept and manage the treatment of old electrical devices and hazardous substances. Around 3,900 tonnes of these materials are collected from the households in the district every year. REMONDIS had been awarded these contracts in the past as well.

**REMONDIS®**  
WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

 **RETERRA®**

**"Having won the contracts, we will be able to continue to play a significant role in tackling climate change and protecting the environment across the region and secure many jobs in these difficult times."**

Reinhard Hohenstein, Managing Director REMONDIS Rhineland



# Don't throw batteries in the bin!

## BDE MEMBERS LAUNCH A LITHIUM-ION BATTERY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

"Explosion in a child's bedroom: smartphone battery bursts into flames." This was a headline in a north German newspaper just a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, such headlines can be read all too often. Articles regularly appear containing alarming information about car parks, flats, refuse collection trucks, bins and even sorting plants that have gone up in flames. The reason: carelessly discarded batteries. The damage caused by these fires is immense.



## A FEW FACTS & FIGURES

Lithium-ion batteries have been part of our everyday lives for many years now: in 2019, there were around 12,700 tonnes of these high-energy rechargeable batteries on the market in appliances such as mobile phones, cameras, electric screwdrivers, laptops, e-bikes and e-scooters, to name just a few. And this figure is rising all the time. Unlike alkaline batteries, the contents of a lithium-ion battery do not simply leak out if the battery is damaged. On the contrary, the contents can create a huge amount of heat, 1,000°C or more. It's no surprise, then, that they need to be collected separately and recycled using special processes.

The campaign, which is targeted at consumers, was launched by BDE President Peter Kurth (left), Holger Kuhlmann (right), Managing Director REDUX Recycling GmbH, and Michael Thews, German MP and spokesman for the circular economy in the SPD parliamentary group



Images – some of them disturbing – have now been published to make people aware of this huge problem: members of the BDE [Federal Association of the German Waste Management Industry] have launched an awareness campaign called "Brennpunkt: Batterie" [Hotspot: battery]. It is targeted at consumers as it is obvious that many end users are still completely unaware that these batteries are a major fire hazard. The images used for the campaign, therefore, focus on the people who are most at risk from carelessly discarded batteries: namely, the people working at sorting plants and on the refuse collection trucks.

#### Raising awareness with stickers & videos

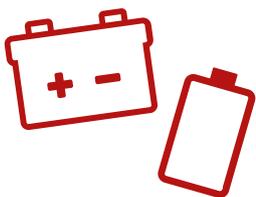
To reach as many people as possible, the campaign has made a short film highlighting this problem, created a dedicated website containing useful information about how to ensure batteries are disposed of and recycled properly and set up its own social media presence. What's more, warning stickers should be placed on as many bins as possible across the whole of Germany. At the moment, many of these batteries are not being taken to the battery collection points at retailers or household waste recycling centres but are being thrown into residual waste, paper or recycling bins – either due to a lack of knowledge or simply due to carelessness.

The legislation is, in fact, very clear: consumers must hand in their old batteries and electrical appliances to either a household waste recycling centre or a retailer. Despite this being set out in law, the majority of these batteries are still ending up in residual waste bins. This not only poses a fire hazard: the metal contained in the batteries cannot be recovered and reused either as household waste is sent to incineration plants. With natural resources becoming ever scarcer, this is bad for the environment and bad for the economy.

#### The solution: a deposit return scheme for batteries

Clearer instructions are needed: the current regulations are obviously not enough to change the way consumers discard their high-risk batteries. The waste management industry is, therefore, calling for a deposit return scheme to be introduced: consumers should pay a deposit of 50 euros when they buy an appliance that contains a battery with a voltage of nine volts or more. This does not include mobile phone batteries but it should be enough to make consumers aware of the issue. It is now up to the legislator: German environmental politicians are currently discussing this idea in the Bundestag.

Find out more about the campaign at [brennpunkt-batterie.de](http://brennpunkt-batterie.de)



#### SAFE CONTAINERS PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT AND MACHINERY

If devices should self-combust, then special containers can reduce heat generation and ensure the gases are released in a controlled manner. As a result, large fires can be prevented and employees better protected. REMONDIS' RETRON division already offers safe storage and transport solutions. Its special containers, for example, are perfect for storing small devices at household waste recycling centres. Find out more at [retron.world](http://retron.world).

# COVID shows the importance of the recycling sector

REMONDIS' SORTING PLANTS COPE WITH INCREASING DEMAND – JUST ONE EXAMPLE: NEWCASTLE, ENGLAND

REMONDIS UK's construction waste sorting plant in Birtley has only been up and running for just over twelve months and has already shown that it is extremely reliable. In these times of social distancing, increasing volumes of waste and extreme levels of uncertainty, it has been playing a key role in the recycling firm's operations.



"Thanks to this plant, we've been able to continue to deliver our high quality services throughout the lockdown," explained the company's managing director, Steve Patterson.

The highly automated sorting systems and the plant's robust design have been key here. It hasn't been a problem for the staff to maintain the minimum distance from each other either as very few of the sorting stages actually need to be performed manually. "Over 95% of the volumes handled at the plant can be separated according to type and the amount of residual materials has fallen by more than ten percent. What's more, both the volumes of waste treated and the importance of the plant have grown since the pandemic began," Steve Patterson continued. The sorting technologies used at the facility include mechanical screening, magnet separators and density separators as well as near-infrared sorting technology to ensure quality of the output.

## **BDE: COVID-19 economic stimulus package incomplete – too many missed opportunities**

This summer, Peter Kurth, former and current president of the BDE [Federal Association of the German Waste Management Industry], criticised the COVID-19 economic stimulus package put together by the coalition in Berlin, declaring it to be an “incomplete programme”. He believes improvements need to be made, especially in the area of resource efficiency. “The package that the politicians have come up with is primarily a package of missed opportunities,” Peter Kurth commented in Berlin.

According to the Association, the package focuses on the wrong priorities. “The stimulus package – which involves an unprecedented amount of money – concentrates far too much on spending money and not enough on making Germany’s economy greener. People looking for some clear signals here will be disappointed. Resource efficiency, the circular economy, recycling – not once are these re-

ferred to and at no stage has their potential been understood and consequently encouraged,” the president of the BDE continued.

The Association is, however, pleased to see that the idea of introducing minimum levels of demand has finally been mentioned. Unfortunately, though, this will only be reviewed as a potential solution and will be restricted to steel and as a part of the hydrogen strategy. This is, Kurth said, far too little. What’s more, the Association is also calling for politicians to be more audacious and cut red tape: “The reason why many public investment projects failed to get off the ground in the past was not because there was a lack of funds but because the process – i.e. planning, approval, legal proceedings – was much too long. Cutting red tape in the area of planning law has, unfortunately, been deferred to EU level leaving everything up in the air. As in the past, private sector investments remain at the planning stage, often for decades, and face framework conditions

that are far too uncertain. Having said that, though, it is not simply a matter of investing money but also of how.”

To make green procurement and the related procurement processes meaningful, the Association believes that it is essential that a recycling label be developed quickly. The costs involved here would be around 300 million euros. “Some people might call this package a powerful package but they are certainly not referring to its potential to create a modern green economy. Far too many opportunities have been missed here. It would have been good if environmental politicians had also been involved in drawing up the programme. Which is why we – the Association – are now calling for focus to be put on resource efficiency as the programme is gradually implemented,” Peter Kurth concluded.

## **Safe collection & recycling structures reduce health risks**

And, in times such as these, it is not just this plant in the British town of Birtley that has been demonstrating the essential role the circular economy and recycling industry play. Waste management companies must be in a position to collect and recycle materials at all times – and preferably all fractions. This is also important to prevent the spread of disease. Just like energy providers, health workers, national and local government employees and transport workers, waste management providers have also been given ‘key worker’ status. Besides delivering essential services, the recycling industry, of course, also plays a significant role in helping to curb climate change and protect the environment.



**“Over 95% of the volumes handled at the plant can be separated according to type and the amount of residual materials has fallen by more than ten percent. What’s more, both the volumes of waste treated and the importance of the plant have grown since the pandemic began.”**

Steve Patterson, Managing Director REMONDIS UK Birtley

# Curbing climate change with compost

TURNING FIELDS INTO CARBON STORES – HOW QUALITY-ASSURED COMPOSTS CURB CLIMATE CHANGE BY BUILDING UP HUMUS

Removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and naturally trapping this greenhouse gas in the soil – this sounds too good to be true. And yet it really is possible. By its very nature, soil is one of the planet's carbon stores that can be influenced the most. A quality that makes it particularly good for the climate and one that can be put to good use. Working with the Fraunhofer Institute, REMONDIS has developed a system to optimise the way soil stores carbon. Central to this development are a digital tool and the quality-assured composts produced by RETERRA.



In average conditions, one tonne of RAL-certified (fresh matter) compost enables ca. 260 kilogrammes of CO<sub>2</sub> to be stored

Every single contribution helps when it comes to tackling the global challenges caused by climate change. Introducing bans and making sacrifices are, however, not always the best way to move forward. Nature has created a perfect soil carbon capture system: CO<sub>2</sub> is drawn from the air by plants as they grow and is released into the soil as carbon via plant roots or decomposing plant parts. The carbon in the soil is then broken down by microorganisms. Some of this is released back into the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub>. The majority of it, however, remains in the soil creating humus, the organic component of soil.

## Humus content – a decisive factor

Soil not only acts as a carbon store in places untouched by human activity like moors and uncultivated land but also in intensively cultivated places such as farming and forestry land. A whole range of factors determine just how much carbon collects in the soil and how long it remains there. The impact of humans – whether it involves fertiliser, tillage or choice of plant – plays just as big a role here as the natural properties of the soil.



At first glance a field.  
At second glance a climate action project

This field stores an additional **23.3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**  
– thanks to RETERRA's organic compost.

> [reterra.de](https://reterra.de)





Just using the volumes of compost produced by RETERRA each year, an ideal combination of compost, soil and land use could store around 83,000 tonnes of carbon.

One particularly important factor, though, is the humus content of the soil as the greater the amount of humus, the more carbon can be stored. Spreading compost is an ideal way to increase the humus content of agricultural land. Up to now, however, composts have primarily been seen as being a useful method of adding nutrients to farm land. However, with the impact of climate change becoming ever greater, the other advantages of compost are now coming to the fore – thanks to the link between humus content and carbon storage.

#### Storage potential put in concrete figures

Thanks to the digital tool developed by the Fraunhofer Institute and REMONDIS, it is now possible to calculate the positive impact that spreading compost has on soil carbon capture and to express this in concrete figures. What's more, it also gives some pointers about how this positive impact could be further increased. These calculations are based on RETERRA's RAL-certified composts.

These high quality compost products are popular among farmers as they are a highly effective way of increasing a soil's humus and nutrient content – guaranteeing, therefore, an improvement in soil fertility. Using its digital tool, RETERRA can now also show each farmer how crop rotation, land management and type of compost or organic fertiliser can promote soil carbon storage in their fields. Having been adjusted to a particular parcel of land, the tool displays the amount of stored carbon for the period of a crop rotation and as an average mean value.

#### Some impressive numbers

The projections made by the Fraunhofer Institute make it very clear that it is well worth using agricultural land as a highly effective carbon store alongside its other primary uses: just using the volumes of compost produced by RETERRA each year, an ideal combination of compost, soil and land use could store around 83,000 tonnes of carbon.

Around 500,000 tonnes of the RAL-certified composts produced by the REMONDIS Group are currently used in agriculture. This figure may increase as a result of the incentives created by carbon trading. What's more, during the Paris Climate Conference in 2015, the German government signed the '4 per 1000 Initiative', which states that a growth rate of 0.4% in the soil carbon stocks in humus around the world would significantly reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere related to human activities.

It is one of REMONDIS' goals to work closely with local authorities to reduce the volumes of organic waste being sent for incineration so that these materials can be used to make compost and – consequently – further promote soil carbon capture.

RETERRA has been supporting farmers for over 30 years, supplying them with climate-friendly organic fertilisers



The demolition team working on the former Duisburg Love Parade site is making good progress

# Free of contamination

## SBD PRESENT A ROBUST DEMOLITION AND REMEDIATION CONCEPT FOR DUISBURG'S FORMER FREIGHT TRAIN DEPOT

There are very few sites in Duisburg that have caused more controversy than the city's former freight train depot. A whole number of plans have been drawn up for this 35-hectare plot of land situated between the A59 motorway and Duisburg's main railway station since it was decommissioned in 1996. These have included plans for a new stadium, a shopping centre, the "Duisburger Freiheit" [Duisburg Freedom] project, a furniture store as well as a designer outlet. In 2010, the site made the headlines for all the wrong reasons after a number of people tragically died following a stampede at the Love Parade being held there. It is now time for new beginnings. "This is where the future starts," commented the Mayor of Duisburg, Sören Link. The goal: to create a modern city district with residential, commercial and leisure opportunities.

"You can't simply just rip down the buildings. Everything has had to be carefully dismantled bit by bit."

Daniel Kratz, Operations Manager at SBD

### SBD with a robust demolition & waste management concept

Being such a politically sensitive site, a variety of consultations were first held involving a number of high-profile people working for the City of Duisburg including Mayor Sören Link, the leaders of the CDU and SPD parties and the managing director of GEBAG. This process ended with the contract for the extensive demolition work at the old train depot being awarded to Servicebetriebe Duisburg GmbH (SBD), a public private partnership between REMONDIS and Wirtschaftsbetriebe Duisburg that serves several municipal key accounts including the land developers, GEBAG. The old railway building has already been removed from the latest animated 3D model on the 'www.am-alten-gueterbahnhof.de' website. In reality, though, the demolition activities have been a huge challenge as the work has involved handling large volumes of hazardous materials.

Daniel Kratz, operations manager at SBD, explained: "You can't simply just rip down the buildings. Everything has had to be carefully dismantled bit by bit." The demolition project began back in May and the work above ground has almost been completed. To begin with, the asbestos cement tiles and PAH-contaminated sheeting had to be removed from the roof, before the frame of the roof could be taken apart and sent for recycling. Another complex task included removing the tarmac and the platforms section by section. To make the dismantling process as safe as possible, the PCB-contaminated paint was first stripped off the walls before they were taken down. The pipes were freed of their synthetic mineral fibre (SMF) covering in a separate step before they, too, were dismantled. "These were not simple tasks and the work on the building's foundations has been particularly complex, as well," Daniel Kratz continued. He has, he said, been particularly grateful for the support of Patricia Pardulla, who has been acting as a go-between to access the specialist knowledge needed across the REMONDIS Group.

The project's remit also involved carrying out an extensive examination of the site to check for old weapons. At one stage, the A59 motorway had to be closed with the help of the 'Straßen NRW' Highways Agency.





### Specialist waste management expertise indispensable

“One of the buildings was unable to be taken down before the damage in its basement – caused by an old fire – had been redressed. We were able to call on REMONDIS Industrie Service at short notice here to help us remove the water used to extinguish the fire as well as an old oil tank,” said Daniel Kratz. On top of this, the company had to deal with some less common types of waste, such as drug-related litter left behind by the drug addicts who had, for many years, sought shelter in the basement of the old freight train depot. REMONDIS Medison provided the specialist support needed here.

A very strict safety concept has been drawn up for the whole of the remediation project, not least because of the Love Parade tragedy. This covers both the employees and machinery deployed on site as well as the way the wastes are handled, including all materials that require permanent supervision. SBD has, for example, used a robot to perform tasks in one particular area where there was a danger of the building collapsing. A team of 20 people work at the old freight depot site every day. With the help of six special vehicles, a screening machine and a crusher, they are working flat out to get the job done.

Transporting the many different waste fractions from the site has also been a great logistical challenge, as Patricia Pardulla, a key account manager at REMONDIS West, explained: “Months of planning were needed to organise the dismantling work and the transport and treatment of all the waste materials. Our goal has always been to complete the work safely in as short as time as possible as well as to recycle as many of the materials as possible.” Throughout, SBD and its client, GEBAG, have been able to rely both on the REMONDIS Group’s robust logistics systems and on its extensive network of branches and facilities.

### What remains: memories – and sustainable building supplies

Each day, a whole range of different kinds of materials are transported away from the premises in skips and containers. By the end of this project, these will have included 430 tonnes of waste timber, 330 tonnes of asbestos-contaminated building materials, 600 tonnes of roofing felt, 30 tonnes of bulky waste, 15 tonnes of PCB-contaminated building and demolition waste, 26 tonnes of SMF, 26 tonnes of waste plaster and 1,000 tonnes of old metal. The only materials left on site are mineral wastes. The aim here is for these to be broken up and – ideally – recycled so that they can re-used for the redevelopment of the area. Samples of all the materials are taken and examined regularly by UCL, a REMONDIS company providing environmental testing and analysis services.

The redevelopment plans should have been completed by summer 2021. By then, Daniel Kratz, Patricia Pardulla and their partners will have finished their work – paving the way for a modern district in Duisburg.

The before and after picture: removing the building is a piece of cake in the 3D model – in reality, though, it is a task for the experts

Patricia Pardulla, Project Manager at REMONDIS, and Daniel Kratz, Managing Director SBD, are responsible for running the project to dismantle the former freight train depot on Duisburg’s Love Parade site



# “Best in class” for sustainability

## EINDHOVEN AIRPORT RELIES ON REMONDIS’ KNOW-HOW

From left to right: Roger Versluis, Regiodirecteur REMONDIS/Baetsen Milieubedrijven, Mirjam van den Boogaard, Director Operations/COO Eindhoven Airport, Pieter-Balth Linders, Regiodirecteur REMONDIS/Baetsen Milieubedrijven, Ton Verblackt, Technical and Facility Manager Eindhoven Airport



**Eindhoven Airport and the family-run recycling firm REMONDIS are now working side by side: in July, Eindhoven Airport joined the list of businesses benefiting from the company’s high quality, customer-oriented services and innovative recycling solutions.**

With around 6.7 million passengers a year, Eindhoven Airport is one of the busiest regional airports in the Netherlands. The Royal Schiphol Group, which operates and owns Amsterdam, Rotterdam-Den Haag and Lelystad airports, also owns a majority share in Eindhoven Airport.

Delivering sustainability and quality are two of the Group’s top priorities. Which is why Schiphol has made a good catch with REMONDIS here. Being an experienced and long-standing expert for sustainable and green solutions, REMONDIS is the perfect partner to help Eindhoven Airport achieve its goal: namely, to deliver the most sustainable performance so that it tops the international airport league table.

### The key: sustainable concepts & innovative locations

“We are delighted to have signed a contract with our new partner, the Schiphol Group. This project is perfect as it allows us to make the very most of our own group’s experience and skills,” explained Dr Andreas Krawczik, managing director of REMONDIS Nederland. This family-run company was able to win over its new partner with its long-standing references, sustainable solutions and low-emission vehicles as well as with its new and innovative recycling facility in Son. Price is not the only important factor when contracts are awarded in the Netherlands – bids are also expected to contain excellent sustainability concepts.

# Big plans need a strong partner

## MIELE NETHERLANDS AND REMONDIS ENTER INTO AN INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP

**Miele, the manufacturer of household and commercial appliances, and the international recycling firm, REMONDIS, are now working for the future together: REMONDIS will take over responsibility for collecting, managing and recycling a wide range of waste types generated by Miele in the Netherlands at the end of 2020. These include residual waste, old paper, plastic film, food waste and hazardous waste.**

Niels Visser, Sales Manager REMONDIS Nederland, Stefan Verhoeven, CEO Miele Nederland, and Dr Andreas Krawczik, Managing Director REMONDIS Nederland, (from left to right) during their visit to REMONDIS’ Lippe Plant



During his visit to the Lippe Plant, REMONDIS’ main business location and the largest industrial recycling centre in Europe, Stefan Verhoeven, CEO of Miele Nederland, was able to see for himself just how high REMONDIS’ level of expertise and know-how is in the field of recycling and sustainability. Both the wide range of very different recycling processes and the fact that REMONDIS is able to return over 30 million tonnes of recyclables to production cycles every

year – something that also generates major CO<sub>2</sub> savings – were more than enough to convince Stefan Verhoeven to collaborate with the recycling specialists. “We are honoured that Miele has chosen us to be their partner so we can help them reach their sustainability goals,” commented Dr Andreas Krawczik, managing director of REMONDIS Nederland, and Niels Visser, sales manager at REMONDIS Nederland.

REMONDIS Nederland’s number one priority is recovering resources and returning high quality recycled raw materials to production cycles – as is the case at all the REMONDIS Group companies.



REMONDIS has been operating in the Republic of Mordovia since 2011 and is responsible for managing and recycling municipal waste for a total of

800,000



local inhabitants

# On the home stretch

## REMONDIS COLLABORATES WITH MORDOVIA TO SET UP AN EXEMPLARY MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Having well-functioning collection systems in place is the first step towards having an effective circular economy. REMONDIS has repeatedly shown over the years how the combination of international know-how and local expertise can drive success in a very short period of time. One of the latest examples of such collaboration work can be found in the Republic of Mordovia in the Volga Region.

Having been operating in Mordovia since 2011, REMONDIS was given the task of collecting municipal waste for a total of 800,000 local inhabitants at the beginning of 2018. With the majority of the people living in rural areas, the biggest challenge for the company here was to set up a waste collection system from scratch. By the beginning of 2020, 374 villages with 700,000 residents in all had joined the new system.

Two further steps have been achieved this year with 32 villages (7,500 residents) becoming part of the scheme in May and 152 rural districts with a further 22,500 residents joining



Collecting residual waste in the District of Sivin

the network in September. This task, therefore, of setting up a comprehensive refuse collection system will soon have been successfully completed. But that's not all: REMONDIS' plans for next year include building a new refuse pre-treatment plant to close the loop.

A reliable waste collection service is particularly important during a pandemic. REMONDIS is providing just such a service in Mordovia as well – and has been praised by the local press for its work.



# Creating closed loops in Sweden

## REMONDIS EXTENDS ITS ACTIVITIES

Ongoing growth and development: the company continues to remain true to its motto – as can be seen in Sweden. Once a market that saw the business specialising in the collection and recycling of packaging material, REMONDIS is now also in charge of carrying out kerbside collections of household waste on behalf of local authorities as well as collecting commercial and industrial waste from its business clients.



Since the beginning of October, for example, REMONDIS has been responsible for collecting old glass in Stockholm, Västra Götaland and Värmland. Swedish Glass Recycling (Svensk Glasåtervinning / SGÅ) recently extended its long-standing contract to cover these regions as well. As a result, the recycling specialists will collect around 110,000 tonnes of glass each year – approximately 60 percent of the volume of old glass generated throughout Sweden.

### Maximum flexibility for the Island of Orust

Östhammar, a coastal district situated 100km north of Stockholm, will also be benefiting from REMONDIS' years of know-how and expertise in the future. The family-run firm will be in charge of collecting organic and residual waste from this region from 2021 onwards.

REMONDIS, which already provides numerous key services in Sweden, has now taken on a particularly challenging task: carrying out kerbside collections of household waste and collecting and sorting hazardous waste on the Island of Orust. The third-biggest island in Sweden, it is home to around 15,000 local inhabitants and welcomes an additional 15,000 tourists every summer. The special feature of this contract? Some of the households are located on other smaller groups of islands that are not connected by road to the main island. REMONDIS will, therefore, have to use a ship to organise the collection of these recyclables – yet another course is being adopted. The contract begins in February 2021.



In the future, REMONDIS will collect

**110,000 tonnes**

of glass a year – approx. 60% of the total volume generated in Sweden

# Stronger together

## REMONDIS AND TRANSDEV EXTEND THEIR COLLABORATION IN AUSTRALIA

'Give and Take' – this is what a good partnership between sisters is all about. And this is just what is happening between Transdev and REMONDIS. Just one example of this can be found in Australia: Transdev, the global public transport operator, has selected REMONDIS, the provider of integral circular economy and water management services, to manage all of the residual and recyclable materials generated by its business locations. All in all, Transdev's public transport operations produce around 200 tonnes of waste and recyclables every month.

**REMONDIS®**

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

**transdev**  
the mobility company

Thanks to this cooperation, REMONDIS will now be serving 60 new business locations across Australia, including 29 ferries in Sydney. It is the goal of both parties to work together to dynamically shape the development of the regions. And what is the best way to do this? By transferring know-how and sharing key technologies. The number one priority here is always to promote sustainability and conserve natural resources.

### REMONDIS and Transdev in Australia



**60**  
new locations

**29**  
ferries in Sydney



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Transdev, a global operator of mobility solutions, already operates seven different modes of public transport in Australia and New Zealand. These include the ferries in Sydney as well as buses and trams.

# A long project

COMPLEX PLANS NEED TIME – SOMETIMES SEVERAL YEARS, AS IS THE CASE IN COLOGNE

XERVON has two key responsibilities at the Cologne-Merkenich Chemical Park: to ensure it runs smoothly and to provide maintenance services as and when they are needed. One of its current projects involves renovating the site's pipe bridges bit by bit – a network of pipes stretching over three kilometres. What might seem, at first glance, to be an uncomplicated task is, in fact, extremely complex. Several years will be needed to complete the project. A period of time that is by no means long considering the extensive and challenging steps that need to be performed.



Pipe bridges are essential lifelines for many manufacturers across a whole range of industrial sectors. Built to support pipes, they make it possible for different substances to be transported above the ground and can often cover great distances. At the Cologne-Merkenich Chemical Park, for example, the pipe bridge network supplies almost everything that the different companies need – from compressed air and steam, to ethylene and vinyl chloride, all the way through to nitrogen, to name just a few.

**Ongoing monitoring & comprehensive renovation work**  
XERVON carries out regular checks to ensure that the system is working properly. These include visual inspections, measuring the thickness of the pipe walls and checking for leaks using ultrasound technology. From time to time, these bridges must also be completely overhauled. A complex task – not only because this important infrastructure has to be renewed and renovated while the park's operations continue as normal but also because many different specialists are needed. What's more, stringent safety measures have to be in place as the material used in the past to protect pipes from corrosion is now classified as hazardous.

## A wide range of services

The renovation of the pipe bridge network at the Cologne-Merkenich Chemical Park began around five years ago. Since then, it has gradually been repaired and renewed section by section. 20 different kinds of services will have been needed to complete the project, from the moment the concept was drawn up all the way through to the final inspection. And most of these services have been required for each section of pipe bridge being repaired. The first step is always erecting the scaffolding around the relevant section. Once this has been done, the whole of this area – from above the pipe bridge all the way down to the ground – is then enclosed with a cover. The result: an enclosed space which is a good five metres wide, ten metres high and up to 100 metres in length.

## Working in a high security area

This enclosed workspace is a world in itself. To ensure that these areas meet all required safety standards, XERVON has equipped them with stationary gas detectors, a fire extinguishing system and emergency entrances including a fire escape consisting of stairs three metres wide. Decontamination areas separate the inside from the outside; access is only possible through double-door systems. All operatives entering the area must wear protective overalls and masks. They have mobile gas detectors with them and can radio through to the security officer whenever they need to, who, in turn, can contact the plant's fire brigade.

Regular safety inspections are part of the project as are inspections carried out together with the customers. A further service provided by the company involves them dealing with all the various authorities – from ensuring the permits and approvals have been issued, all the way through to drawing up any documentation that may be needed.

## Tried & tested teamwork

Several months are needed to finish each section and many different experts have to be called in to perform their specialist tasks. This work must, of course, be dovetailed perfectly so that there is no unnecessary downtime – a complex task for the project management team. Managed by XERVON Instandhaltung, the various services required to renovate the pipe bridge are being delivered exclusively by experts from the REMONDIS Group. Together, they are able to perform all the work needed. This is, in fact, crucial for the project to run smoothly. Having immediate access to all the different specialists – and to specialists who are used to working together – creates two key advantages for the businesses based at the chemical park: the knowledge that top quality work will be delivered and a reduction in time and costs.

The renovation of the pipe bridge has been planned, controlled and coordinated by XERVON Instandhaltung, the long-standing maintenance service provider and operator of the Cologne-Merkenich Chemical Park

The more services that are required, the more advantageous it is to work with a business that can cover all the tasks



## A CHAIN OF SERVICES WITH A WHOLE NUMBER OF INTERFACES

A wide range of carefully dovetailed services are needed to renovate pipe bridges. These are provided by eight of the REMONDIS Group's highly specialised divisions.



# Anything but simple

BUCHEN WAS CALLED IN BY THE CAR MANUFACTURER FORD TO PERFORM A COMPLEX TASK:  
DISMANTLING TWO DECOMMISSIONED WIND TUNNELS

The commissioning of a state-of-the-art climate wind tunnel test centre at Ford's development centre in Cologne-Merkenich meant that two of its old wind tunnels were no longer needed. BUCHEN was put in charge of removing the hazardous substances from these old systems. A particularly challenging project as this involved extracting thermal oil as well as a refrigerant containing sodium dichromate – two substances that require both high levels of expertise and an individual approach if they are to be handled safely.

Every type of weather  
found on earth can be  
simulated on an area the  
size of a football pitch



Altitudes of  
5,200 metres



High-speed winds up  
to 250 km/h



Temperatures  
ranging from  
-40°C to +55°C



Ford operates a cutting-edge test centre in Cologne that is home to three climate wind tunnels. It is the most modern of its kind in Europe and unites the world's different weather conditions under one roof. Whether it be the Sahara or Siberia – each and every type of weather found on earth can be simulated on an area the size of a football pitch: high-speed winds up to 250 km/h, altitudes of 5,200 metres (the equivalent of the base camp on the north side of Mount Everest) as well as temperatures ranging from -40°C to +55°C.

This highly modern 'Weather Factory' replaces two separate test facilities that had been used for many years to expose Ford's vehicles to extreme weather conditions. No longer needed, these old wind tunnels now had to be dismantled. A task that was no less challenging than the extreme conditions the wind tunnels had themselves created as all hazardous substances had to be first removed and the systems chemically cleaned before they could be taken apart.

All traces of the thermal oil – a highly inflammable mixture of hydrocarbons, isoalkanes and aromatic compounds – had to be removed before these old test facilities could be safely dismantled. Once extracted, the oil was then sent on for further processing or thermal treatment. As far as the refrigerant was concerned, it was its sodium dichromate content that was of particular concern. While this environmentally hazardous substance made up just one percent of the refrigerant, it can have both a toxic and oxidising effect. This chemical is no longer used today and is particularly difficult to dispose of. As it was technically impossible to fully remove the sodium dichromate from the ammonia solution, re-using the refrigerant or parts of the refrigerant was out of the question.

Faced with this complex situation, BUCHEN developed a bespoke concept for dismantling the climate wind tunnels that combined the company's in-depth knowledge and experiences it had gathered from similar projects. Its next step was to discuss this concept in detail with its customer, in particular with Ford's safety officers and engineers.

In fact, for the refrigerant alone, BUCHEN put forward four alternative solutions for chemically cleaning the facilities and disposing of the hazardous substances. In the end, Ford opted for the proposal that involved separating the ammonia from the ammonia solution and using a mobile treatment unit on site to incinerate and transform it into nitrogen and steam. Following this, the remaining watery solution – now only containing traces of ammonia – could be filled into a separate container and sent for disposal.

The thermal oil systems were first emptied and then chemically cleaned. To be able to do this, BUCHEN injected an oil-soluble emulsifier into the facility while it was in operation so that it could spread throughout the whole of the system. Once this had been completed, a vacuum/cleaning vehicle was deployed to empty any oil-containing pipes and vessels at their lowest point and then fill them with water. The result: this combination of water and thermal oil residue displaced by the emulsifier created an oil-in-water emulsion, which was pumped around the system for a while before being vacuumed off into the vehicle. The results of this cleaning work were so good that the original additional and final step of cleaning the system with clear water was no longer necessary. This considerably reduced the amount of wastewater that the customer had to have treated.

Thanks to its meticulous planning work, BUCHEN needed just a few days to remove the hazardous substances. Once this essential work had been completed, the facilities were then able to be dismantled safely and without incident. Ford's facility engineers can now focus fully on their new climate wind tunnel test centre and Ford drivers can rest assured that their vehicles will be able to cope with all weather conditions, no matter how punishing they may be.

**BUCHEN**<sup>®</sup>  
WORKING FOR THE FUTURE



BUCHEN developed a concept for Ford that went far beyond the norm. The result: high levels of safety, rapid completion times, highest possible volumes of recovered materials and minimised waste management costs

# Twenty years of stable fees in the Lausitz

WASSERVERBAND LAUSITZ BETRIEBSFÜHRUNGSGESELLSCHAFT (WAL-BETRIEB) A CENTRAL FACTOR BEHIND THIS SUCCESS

The Lausitz Water Association found itself facing a difficult future following the reunification of Germany in 1990, with industrial businesses closing down one after the other and the population in and around Senftenberg and Hoyerswerda steadily falling. Today, Brandenburg's largest waterworks and its operator are benefiting from the courageous decisions the association made back then – not least the decision to hand over the management of its water operations to WAL-Betrieb, a REMONDIS Aqua company, in 2006. For over 20 years now, WAL's customers have not had to face rising fees – on the contrary, they have remained stable both for water supply and wastewater treatment.



Chairman of the Lausitz Water Association, Dr Roland Socher, explained the reasons behind this success: "The fees and charges for drinking water and wastewater have effectively been frozen over the last 20 years. This can be put down to a number of important decisions that were made some years back. One of these decisions was handing over the business's operations to a privately owned company 15 years ago. That has brought some huge benefits. The second decision was to have the foresight to invest in the future."

**"The fees and charges for drinking water and wastewater have effectively been frozen over the last 20 years."**

Dr Roland Socher, Chair of the Lausitz Water Association

Foresight was definitely needed when the Lausitz Water Association (WAL) was founded back in 1992. The structure and the size of the business did not reflect the fall in demand. The waterworks in Tettau had originally been built in the 1950s to supply the newly established industrial businesses with water, in particular the coking plant in Lauchhammer. As part of East Germany back then, the waterworks was responsible for supplying both its industrial customers and the local districts, such as Hoyerswerda and Senftenberg, with water. In fact, the demand was so great that the plant had to be extended in 1962.

The large investments that needed to be made in the waterworks following the reunification of Germany automatically led to the fees being increased, almost on an annual basis. At the same time, the number of local inhabitants continued to fall and the residents who remained in the region tried to limit the amount of water they consumed because of the ever increasing charges. Having invested so heavily in its infrastructure, the association found itself deep in debt in the 1990s. Many areas of its supply network, however, still needed to be renovated. At the time, it was not clear whether the association would be able to manage the balancing act of making the necessary investments while taking in less and less money.

The first milestone was reached at the beginning of the millennium when the decision was made not to renovate the existing waterworks but to build a new facility instead. A modern plant would enable the association to have a clearly defined and more predictable budget. With demand for drinking water continuing to drop, costs could be kept lower by operating a new and smaller waterworks. A long-term contract was signed with the Lausitz mining company ensuring that they would supply them with drinking water from their Schwarze Pumpe waterworks should demand exceed the capacity of the new plant.

Moreover, a major project began in 2005 to extend the sewer system to cover the districts on the outskirts of the city and neighbouring villages.



In 2003, the association then decided to put the plant's operations out to tender. REMONDIS Aqua took part in this multi-stage, Europe-wide procurement process and was awarded the contract in 2005. A new company was founded specifically for this purpose – WAL-Betrieb – and it began working on behalf of the water association almost 15 years ago. WAL-Betrieb is a fully owned subsidiary of EURAWASSER GmbH & Co. KG, one of the leading water management companies in Germany serving a number of city and district authorities.

The benefits for the local partners are obvious: pooling together know-how from various different areas guarantees a sustainable, high-quality performance and cuts administration costs as services are delivered centrally.

Today, WAL-Betrieb employs 200 people and serves local authorities, industrial businesses, commercial firms and private individuals. Besides supplying drinking water and treating wastewater, the team also performs a range of additional tasks including household connection services, providing advice on and organising mobile wastewater management services, unblocking drains and cleaning sewers (including household pipes) as well as protecting groundwater and harvesting rainwater.

What's more, WAL-Betrieb has succeeded in extending its catchment area over the last few years: besides now serving the Kamenz water association in the state of Saxony, the company also supplies water to a number of industrial customers in the east of Saxony. In a nutshell: a real success story.



[Watch WAL-Betrieb's corporate film here](#)



Companies facing demographic challenges must operate modern water technology if they want to supply clean, inexpensive water

# Lausitz shows its colours

## LWG SIGNS THE DIVERSITY CHARTER

The 'Charta der Vielfalt' [Diversity Charter] aims to create working environments that are free of prejudice and value all employees in equal measure – irrespective of their gender identity, nationality, religion, age, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or ideology. Cottbus recently took part in the German Diversity Day to underline its role as a diverse, cosmopolitan city. Other important companies and institutes have also signed the Charter besides LWG Lausitzer Wasser GmbH & Co. KG (a joint venture between the City of Cottbus, surrounding district authorities, associations and REMONDIS Aqua). Signatories include Lausitz Energie Bergbau AG, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, the Carl Thiem Clinic, Envia Service GmbH, CMT Cottbus Congress, Messe & Touristik GmbH, Gebäudewirtschaft Cottbus GmbH, SpreeGas Gesellschaft für Gasversorgung und Energiedienstleistung mbH, Cottbus Chamber of Commerce, Gründungszentrum Lausitz and Actemium Bea GmbH.

## THE DIVERSITY CHARTER

The 'Charta der Vielfalt' is a corporate initiative under the patronage of Angela Merkel and aims to promote diversity in German companies and institutions. Around 3,000 employers with a total of more than 10.4 million employees have already signed the Diversity Charter.



Marten Eger, Managing Director of LWG in charge of technology, proudly presenting the signed Diversity Charter

In keeping with the rainbow motto, a whole range of diverse and colourful activities are held in Cottbus on Diversity Day each year. The packed programme includes a multicultural picnic to promote diversity and tolerance as well as various workshops and talks. Numerous business leaders get to speak at the event and discuss what actions and steps can be taken in the future to actively encourage diversity across all areas. Each year, it is made very clear that a diverse setting creates many different opportunities. In society as a whole as well as in the workplace.

A digital version of Diversity Day was held this year due to the current situation. Lausitz businesses, institutions, firms and associations used the #lausitzzusammenbunt hashtag and the Lausitz website ([zukunftlausitz.de/diversity-tag-2020](https://www.zukunftlausitz.de/diversity-tag-2020)) to demonstrate just how diverse the Lausitz economy is and just how attractive the region is for employees. A video was also produced to highlight the event.



Find out more at  
[zukunftlausitz.de/diversity-tag-2020](https://www.zukunftlausitz.de/diversity-tag-2020)



Watch a video of the  
2020 Diversity Day in  
the Lausitz here



# A successful partnership in Bad Breisig

REMONDIS EURAWASSER WINS EU-WIDE TENDER IN BAD BREISIG

## EURAWASSER

Following an EU-wide tender process, REMONDIS EURAWASSER has once again been awarded a contract to run the owner-operated municipal waterworks by Bad Breisig, an association of local authorities located in the Rhineland-Palatinate region. As a result, the approx. 4,000 households belonging to the association's area will continue to be supplied with drinking water as in the past by the successful public private partnership until 2023. The branch in Grafschaft has been responsible for both the commercial and technological management of the waterworks since 2010. The association of local authorities includes the City of Bad Breisig as well as Brohl-Lützingen Gönnersdorf, Rheineck and Waldorf, all of which are supplied with drinking water by this plant.

Bad Breisig shows how public private partnerships can become a long-standing municipal success in the water management sector as well



The infrastructure of this owner-operated municipal waterworks comprises seven drinking water reservoirs and nine pumping stations as well as a drinking pipe network of around 131km in length. Each year, the association sources its approx. 680,000 cubic metres of drinking water from the neighbouring district of Sinzig. The new contract awarded to REMONDIS EURAWASSER covers a wide range of tasks including managing the plant's technical operations, delivering the engineering and specialist expertise needed to monitor and maintain the water supply network, providing on-call services, organising quality control and quality management, compiling profitability calculations, supporting any necessary renovation and investment measures as well as replacing water meters as and when required.



Customers are supplied with water thanks to the seven reservoirs, nine pumping stations and a network of pipes around **131km** in length

The commercial side of the business includes the company delivering customer services, calculating fees and charges, doing all necessary bookkeeping and accounting tasks, compiling business plans, providing support for tender and approval procedures, drawing up annual statements and appointing a plant manager to run the waterworks.

REMONDIS EURAWASSER GmbH was founded in 2008. Today, it supports its customers based in the north of the Rhineland-Palatinate region from its head office in Grafschaft. Besides running the waterworks owned by the Bad Breisig association, the company, being a shareholder in Regionalwerken Grafschaft GmbH, is also responsible for the commercial and technological management of the owner-operated municipal waterworks and sewage treatment plant in Grafschaft. Thanks to the company's effective management system and the many synergies within the EURAWASSER Group both in and beyond the Rhineland-Palatinate region, it is able to make considerable savings – to the benefit of both the region and the customers.

# Refreshing water for Schwerin... and an environmental plus

## NEW PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAIN FOR THE STATE CAPITAL

Water is one of the elements that people in Schwerin most often come across. This beautiful town – the capital city of the German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern – lies on the second-largest lake in north Germany and attracts many tourists every year. With summers getting warmer and longer, the local authorities recently decided to install new drinking fountains in the centre of its city.

People out shopping, jogging around the Pfaffenteich or on a sightseeing trip around the town now have an additional way to fill up their water bottles. The water company, Wasserversorgungs- und Abwasserentsorgungsgesellschaft (WAG), a successful partnership between the city authority's utilities company Stadtwerke Schwerin and REMONDIS Aqua's subsidiary EURAWASSER, has now installed two further public drinking fountains. Located in the busiest areas of the town, these two modern stainless steel fountains and an older historical fountain supply drinking water to all who need it. This service will not only benefit the people walking around the city on a hot summer's day. This high quality tap water is also a resource-friendly alternative to buying bottled water. "It is one of the most strictly controlled foodstuffs, saves money and reduces volumes of waste – especially plastic bottles," explained WAG managing director Hanno Nispel.

### A successful collaboration since 2003

Having installed the drinking fountains, WAG is now responsible for operating and maintaining them. Just one of its many tasks – as this service provider is also in charge of supplying top quality and environmentally friendly drinking water across the city and to the twelve districts belonging to the Schweriner Umland water association. Moreover, WAG also manages the town's wastewater operations.

To be able to deliver all these services, this public private joint venture employs 87 people and runs two waterworks, four pressure booster stations, a sewage treatment plant and almost 400 wastewater pumping stations as well as all the pipes across the networks.

It is hardly surprising that sustainable development is of central importance to a "water business" – and not just when it comes to its workforce, technology and operations. A look at WAG's 'Sustainable Development Principles' shows that the company is committed to "sustainably protecting water both as a natural habitat and as a vital resource for our and all future generations". And so it also stands to reason that WAG is involved in educational campaigns: it runs its own drinking water educational trail, visits schools to teach children all about the importance of water and supports local grassroots sports clubs.

The Pfaffenteich Armoury: you are never far from water in Schwerin – indeed, it is one of the city's main features



"Pulling" their first glass of water from the new drinking fountain close to Schwerin's Pfaffenteich (from left to right): Mayor of Schwerin Dr Rico Badenschier, WAG Managing Directors Hanno Nispel and Petra Beyer, City Leader Sebastian Ehlers and Gert Rudolf, Chair of the town council's CDU/FDP parliamentary party



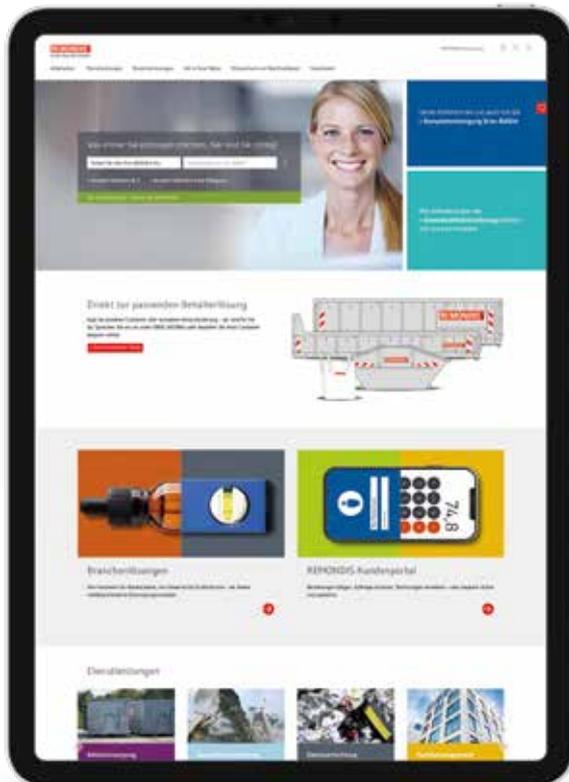
## REMONDIS Industrie Service: Three excellent exam results

Despite their exams being brought forward, three apprentices from REMONDIS Industrie Service concluded their apprenticeship courses with an impressive result. At the beginning of this year, Hanna Klönne, Ramona Krug and Viktoria Wissmann received top marks, passing their apprenticeship to become an industrial management assistant at REMONDIS Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG with the grade "very good". Having completed their course, Ramona Krug has taken up a position in sales at REMONDIS Industrie Service GmbH & Co. KG and Viktoria Wissmann has joined the purchasing team at REMONDIS Assets & Services GmbH.

Hanna Klönne, Ramona Krug and Viktoria Wissmann (from left to right) were all awarded the grade 'very good' in their final exams



## All in one: all waste types, services and locations on one website



There is one main benefit to the new 'remondis-entsorgung.de' website: it makes life easier for each and every REMONDIS customer – as well as for all those people looking for information about what to do with their refuse. It makes no difference whether the person visiting the site is an industrial, retail or commercial customer, a private individual searching for a waste solution, or a representative of a local authority. Providing all the information needed to manage waste correctly, this website contains the full package – for every person, for every sector and for every type of waste. What's the correct way to dispose of my workshop waste? What waste management documents and certificates do I need? Which branches are nearby? What's the quickest way to get hold of a skip? This new central site offers these and many other services and replaces the former regional websites. No questions about waste management should remain unanswered.



An answer to every waste management question:  
[remondis-entsorgung.de](http://remondis-entsorgung.de)

## NRW environmental minister Heinen-Esser opens a greening project at Oberhausen's GMVA

In view of the need to take action against climate change, the City of Oberhausen, Emschergenossenschaft water association and the Ministry of the Environment of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) announced on 18 June 2020 that they had given the go-ahead for a greening project at the GMVA incineration plant. It is the first planned measure for their "Klimaresiliente Region mit internationaler Strahlkraft" project [climate-resilient region and international beacon]. Covering a surface area of 4.9ha and handling 700,000t of waste a year, the GMVA is one of the largest waste incineration plants in Germany. The GMVA is planning to create living roofs on a number of its flat-roofed buildings to retain rainwater so it can evaporate back into the air. There are two main benefits here: firstly, it reduces runoff volumes directed into the sewer system and, secondly, it increases the amount of precipitation evaporated back into the atmosphere. Mayor Daniel Schranz stressed the importance of this work: "We intend GMVA's project in Oberhausen to act as a climate action role model across our region".

The "Klimaresiliente Region mit internationaler Strahlkraft" project was initiated following a resolution passed by the state government in November 2019 to drive forward the development of green infrastructure in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Mayor of Oberhausen Daniel Schranz, NRW Environmental Minister Ursula Heinen-Esser and Board Chair of the Emschergenossenschaft water association Prof. Uli Paetzel (from left to right) during their visit to the GMVA in Oberhausen



**"We intend GMVA's project in Oberhausen to act as a climate action role model across our region."**

Mayor Daniel Schranz

## First Apprentice Instagram competition at REMONDIS

In February 2020, REMONDIS asked its apprentices in Lünen to make a short video clip to show what their everyday work is like as well as to provide information about the profession they are training in. They had to stick to a number of rules, for example, the video had to be 1½ minutes long, include a variety of sequences and have the 9:16 format. The Apprentice Instagram competition was given the motto: "Making a career and saving the world". The winner was Sebastian Wellenkamp from REMONDIS Medison, whose video was

then posted on Instagram. His video provides an excellent insight into his everyday work as a professional truck driver at REMONDIS Medison and shows how he masters the challenge of handling medical waste.



Do you know REMONDIS Karriere's Instagram account? Watch the winning video here and learn more about the apprentices' everyday work at REMONDIS

Sebastian Wellenkamp was pleased to win the Apprentice Instagram competition





# Donating cups to help others

REMONDIS AND THW KIEL RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

REMONDIS' North Region company recently joined forces with THW Kiel, the current German handball champions, to help tackle child poverty. Together, they donated 6,500 euros to 'inka' – an association based in Kiel set up to support children affected by poverty. It offers, for example, weekly music, sport and dancing lessons for children from poverty stricken families in Kiel. With THW Kiel having introduced reusable cups and a deposit return scheme into its club, fans now pay a deposit each time they buy a drink during a match. THW fans were asked recently to donate their cups rather than claim back their deposit – resulting in 3,000 euros being raised for the 'inka' project over the last five matches. REMONDIS and THW Kiel added a further 3,500 euros to the sum.



Mayor Dr Ulf Kämpfer and Ralph Müller-Beck, Head of Municipal Sales REMONDIS North, have joined forces with THW Kiel to help children



Mayor Dr Ulf Kämpfer, patron of the "inka" association, praised THW Kiel and REMONDIS' commitment to this cause: "Unfortunately, child poverty in Kiel affects more than just a few children. Every one in three children in Kiel is poor. Besides all the activities that the council are undertaking to tackle child poverty, we also need help from our local citizens – whether it be donations or voluntary work. The support that the handball fans, THW Kiel and REMONDIS have shown with their inka campaign is an excellent example of such local commitment."

**"Children's well-being is something that lies very close to our heart. What's more we have very close ties to the City of Kiel having provided services to the council for so many years."**

Ralph Müller-Beck, Head of Municipal Sales at REMONDIS North

## REMONDIS wishes to raise more money

Ralph Müller-Beck, head of municipal sales at REMONDIS North, explained the company's motives behind the campaign: "Children's well-being is something that lies very close to our heart. What's more we have very close ties to the City of Kiel having provided services to the council for so many years. We are, therefore, not only helping to keep the environment clean but also to reduce child poverty in Kiel. It has been a pleasure supporting this fundraising campaign. We have also advertised it on the side of one of our vehicles to encourage other people in Kiel to join in and donate as well."

## Donation much appreciated

"Children from poverty-stricken households need all the help they can get – especially during this coronavirus year," stressed Jürgen Fenske, chairman of inka. "We're really pleased as well that this fundraising campaign has helped to make more people aware of inka and its goals – every handball match was sold out." Music, sport, theatre and dance are all really important for a child's personal development. Unfortunately, not all families in Kiel can afford these out-of-school activities. 9,000 children in Kiel live in poverty. inka wishes to give these children access to such opportunities as well.

THW Kiel and REMONDIS intend to continue their cup donation campaign as soon as the next handball season starts.

# IMPRESSIONS



◀ Another award for a great European: Norbert Rethmann, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the REMONDIS Group, holding up the Europe Medal presented to him by the CDU/CSU European Parliamentary Group



▲ (from left to right) Michael Zolda, Head of Municipal Sales at REMONDIS Region West, Wilhelm Jasperneite, member of the CDU parliamentary group in the Unna District Council and a member of the council in Werne, Anja Karliczek, German MP and Minister of Education and Research, Marco Morten Pufke, Chair of the Unna District CDU Group, Franz-Bernhard Thier, Managing Director of SARIA, and Ludger Rethmann, REMONDIS Board Chairman, during the minister's visit to SARIA's head office in Selm



▲ Employees have now tested the quality of RETERRA's compost themselves. The giant pumpkin competition was won by the 54kg pumpkin that was planted in RETERRA's 'AktivKompost' in late summer. RETERRA plant manager, Björn Zimmer, was, however, more than happy with the whole of his crop



▲ In the reception room of the Berlin offices of the state government of Saxony-Anhalt: (from left to right) Herwart Wilms, Managing Director REMONDIS, Wolfram Kuschke, former minister in the Minister President's office of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Rainer Robra, State Minister and Head of the Minister President's office and Minister for Culture of the state of Saxony-Anhalt, Ludger Rethmann, REMONDIS Board Chairman and Member of the Supervisory Board of the Lünen Clinic, Prof. Michael Schäfer, retired professor of public sector economics, and Clemens Galuschka, health expert and Managing Director of the Lünen-Werne Catholic Clinic and Katholische St. Lukas Gesellschaft mbH Dortmund



## Fuel for climate action

Biodiesel made from biogenic residual materials and animal waste contributes greatly towards reducing air pollution: compared to mineral diesel, this recycled product emits over 60% fewer carbon emissions, has a lower sulphur content and contains neither benzene nor any other aromatic compounds. Three good reasons then for investing in the development of sustainable biodiesel technology. The increase in minimum recycling rates, which came into force on 01.01.2020, is providing new momentum. A first step. Bold, forward-looking climate policies must continue to show the way forward.