

Press release

## Investments in the Swiss head facility

**With a new timber warehouse, Bauwerk Group is clearly making a commitment to its production site in Switzerland.**



*Bauwerk Parkett's main facility in St Margrethen, Switzerland, is a place where the company produces 1.8 million square metres of parquet, 60% of its entire range. The leading manufacturer of high-quality sustainable parquet and authentic-wood floors employs around 210 workers in St Margrethen. The need to construct a new warehouse for storing raw materials arose from the sale of the Areal Ost estate, which led to the demolition of the existing warehouses and drying chambers.*

In summer 2022, the construction activities began in St Margrethen, the Bauwerk Group's original location, with the demolition of the drying chambers and open-air storage facilities, followed by the construction of the assembly facilities for the maintenance division. The new warehouse has been in construction since the decontamination of the soil and the laying of an asphalt surface for the storage spaces in August 2023. With its completion in April 2024, Bauwerk Group is taking an important step towards modernising its production site in Switzerland and, by using timber to construct the warehouse, it confirms its commitment to working with environmentally-friendly materials. The headquarters of Bauwerk Group is located in St Margrethen and remain the driver of innovation for the entire group, which encompasses the leading European brands Bauwerk Parkett and BOEN.

This facility in eastern Switzerland includes the company's R&D laboratory. "Here, in St Margrethen, we've built-up vast amounts of expertise, with highly specialised and experienced staff. These competences and the passion of our employees have given our company competitive advantages in the past, and in the future, will help us set new industry



standards and achieve success," asserted Patrick Hardy, Bauwerk Group CEO, emphasizing the importance of the facility in Switzerland.

### **Significant reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**

"The new warehouse makes a decisive contribution to increasing the efficiency of our group-scale logistics, as it optimises our transport chains," Hardy explained. This step also significantly helps to further reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. According to Hardy: "A few years ago, we stopped transporting wet planks, which contain around 90% water, all across Europe, in order to dry them here in St Margrethen." Compared to other types of flooring, manufacturing parquet is very energy efficient. Most of the energy goes into drying the wood, and thanks to the reuse of waste timber to perform this task, Bauwerk Group is managing to stay carbon-neutral. In fact, all three of its plants in Europe use green electricity and by-product biomass heating to cover their energy needs. At its Swiss headquarters, Bauwerk Group already invested in solar power a couple of years ago: As part of a renovation project in 2021, the large silo was equipped with solar panels, 100% of which are used for the company's own operations in St Margrethen.

It was a conscious decision for Bauwerk Group to use timber as the material for the new building, constructed by Blumer Lehmann from Gossau: "The choice represents our connection with the region and with its traditional crafts. The new building also emphasises our commitment to the many advantages of wood as a renewable raw material," Patrick Hardy said. "A timber warehouse like this fits perfectly with our company's philosophy, and our pursuit of sustainability. Used as a construction material, wood is renewable and climate-friendly, and it does create a special mood in the warehouse." The new St Margrethen warehouse is a clear sign of the entire Bauwerk Group's growth and innovation.

St Margrethen, April 2024

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**1** Proud of the new warehouse at Bauwerk Group's headquarters in St Margrethen: Patrick Signer, Plant Director, Patrick Hardy, CEO, and Marcel Zillig, Technics and Projects manager (left to right)  
Photo: Bauwerk Group

**2** Using timber as the material for the new warehouse clearly shows Bauwerk Group's commitment to its facility in Switzerland. Photo: Bauwerk Group

**3** The new warehouse enables more efficient storage of raw materials. Photo: Bauwerk Group

**4** Patrick Hardy, Bauwerk Group CEO, emphasised: "A timber warehouse like this fits perfectly with our company's philosophy, and our pursuit of sustainability. Used as a construction material, wood is renewable and climate-friendly, and it does create a special mood in the warehouse." Photo: Bauwerk Group

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## **Company Portrait**

Bauwerk Group employs over 1900 people in its many divisions across the world. These people work every day to make unique, sustainable parquet with Swiss precision. The group, headquartered in St Margrethen, has become a leading producer and supplier of premium parquet. The group's portfolio includes two brands, Bauwerk Parkett and BOEN, and since May 2022, the North American company Somerset Hardwood Flooring.

Selling some 10 million square metres of parquet every year, the group offers a comprehensive product range, including solid, 2-layer and 3-layer parquet, as well as specialised hardwood floors for sports facilities. It has production plants in Switzerland, Lithuania, Croatia and the US. Through the merger with Somerset Hardwood Flooring, the Bauwerk Group achieves a turnover of around CHF 380 million and has established itself as a global market leader in the high-quality real wood flooring sector.