UNITED BY THE HORIZON
From Kiel and Geneva to St Petersburg – impressive projects from the ASSMANN portfolio and testimonials of our good work

DRIVEN BY PASSION
Further development and expansion of our range of products and services for modern working environments
Eighty years ago, ASSMANN was Melle’s village joinery workshop. Today, the company successfully develops and manufactures functional office furniture systems. The family-owned business is currently one of the leading manufacturers of design-focused furnishing solutions for modern working environments. ASSMANN stands for reliability, outstanding quality and comprehensive service – including personalized planning advice on how to use spaces most efficiently, space-saving products and the supply, assembly and fitting of the furniture on site. Our success is made possible by our office furniture manufacturing facilities, which are among the most state-of-the-art and fully-automated facilities of their kind in Europe, in combination with a strictly implemented strategy for quality and sustainability. Besides renowned German companies, an increasing number of international firms throughout Europe are also relying on these innovations from Melle.

Our ASSMANN portfolio report provides detailed on-site insights into our latest and most exciting projects, which are a testament to our “good work”!

**DRIVEN BY PASSION**

In order to meet the market requirements associated with digitalisation and globalisation, which have emerged due to “Work 4.0”, a constant process of ongoing development and improvement is underway here at ASSMANN. As part of this process, we are continuously adapting our services to suit the latest market requirements. Besides developing and manufacturing our furniture systems, we attach particular importance to expanding and improving our range of services and support.

**A TOUR AROUND THE ASSMANN PROJECT PORTFOLIO**

With a full tank, the ASSMANN T2 VW van is ready and raring to go on a trip around our project portfolio for the 2018 report. From Melle, the iconic vehicle will travel all the way to Russia via Switzerland and England in order to visit some of the impressive projects in our portfolio. Our report not only showcases the office furniture solutions manufactured by ASSMANN; many of our destinations are also great stopovers that have amazing sights and cultural highlights to offer.

So get in, fasten your seatbelt and off we go – the ASSMANN project portfolio tour starts here!
schedule. Shortly after the decision had been made, the company started to manufacture the furniture in Melle. In the weeks that followed, it produced sit-stand desks, storage cabinets and other occasional furniture for around 250 workstations. This called for teamwork: from ordering the materials to the pre-production and quality assurance processes, all steps had to be perfectly coordinated. This was the only way to ensure that the office furniture was ready to be loaded on time in order to be driven to Minden, where it would then be assembled and fitted. One of the people who had an overview of this process was ASSMANN project manager André Strunk.

“WAGO is a fast-paced and successful company. Accordingly, we had to work flexibly and in a very focused way – both in terms of the design of our office furniture and also in terms of the production process and the fit out,” says Strunk.

SPACE AND MOVEMENT

The good teamwork paid off: as soon as the construction work was finished, the ASSMANN systems arrived in Minden, where they were then installed by the experts. In keeping with the brief, the workstations on all five floors were equipped with sit-stand desks to encourage the

THE PERFECT CONNECTION

Rapid growth means that more space is needed, and fast. WAGO, a leading automation and connection technology manufacturing company, also came to realise this.

Since 2012, ASSMANN has been a reliable partner for WAGO when it comes to office furniture. Successful cooperation not only depends on the quality and functionality of the products supplied but above all on perfect timing.

Location: Minden, Germany  Client: WAGO

Sometimes, a brief “Eureka!” moment can be the start of something much bigger. The company WAGO was established in 1951 on the basis of the idea to replace the commonly used screw lock mechanism on conductors with a more effective spring clamp system. The “WAGO Connector” became an international industry standard, and the connection technology expert employs around 8,000 employees all over the world to ensure that it stays that way. The strong growth over the past few years had a particularly visible impact on the company’s head office in Minden. A new five-storey office building (V.3) with a total footprint of 5,332 square metres was completed in 2012. In order to furnish the around 250 new workstations in time, WAGO’S facility management department then started to look for a competent partner to fit out its new offices. Time was of the essence: the employees were scheduled to move into the building in only sixteen months’ time.

PRECISE TIMING

WAGO therefore simply decided to issue an invitation to tender. The responsible project team met with several office furniture manufacturing companies, looked at different concepts and gradually rejected the bidders one by one. The final decision was made in 2011: ASSMANN was tasked with the job. The Melle-based family-owned business impressed above all with the quality and functionality of its furniture systems. Another decisive factor for WAGO was that ASSMANN not only promised fixed delivery dates but would also adhere to this precise
The Allvia cabinets are a space-saving solution and they also look good.

Thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows and glass dividing walls, the new building is very light and attractive.

The Pontis mobile pedestals offer the employees plenty of personal storage space.

For a company like WAGO, we have to work fast and in a very focused way.

The Minden Aqueduct

In Minden, the Mittelland Canal has been led through a trough aqueduct across the river Weser at Minden, which runs fifteen metres below it, since 1915. The best way to experience the aqueduct is to take a boat trip on the canal – and through the lock chamber.

Book a trip through the lock at: www.mifa.com

WAGO employees to change their position more frequently. The aim is to help prevent health problems from developing. The new desks were accompanied by tables for office equipment, measuring instruments or trial models. “Our aim was to develop office systems that offer significant added value. Our Canvaro sit-stand desks are designed with optimum workplace ergonomics in mind, which benefits both the employees and the employer. Separate equipment tables and tambour storage cabinets are also space-saving and therefore increase the actual workspace,” Strunk says as he explains the concept developed by ASSMANN and WAGO. The furniture is not only functional but also looks good: all wooden surfaces are finished in an understated greyish-white; the black frames match the new building’s aluminium window frames. WAGO attached particular importance to tidy cable management as the company did not want unsightly “cable spaghetti” to ruin the overall look. ASSMANN fitted cable conduits below each workstation’s desktop. The conduits hide power and data cables almost completely – a customised addition that was developed and fitted especially for WAGO.

For the responsible project team, it was customised services like these that made all the difference, according to the feedback after project completion: “ASSMANN focused on our precise requirements and developed respective solutions. Together with the faultless delivery and fit out and also the reliable logistics, they provided an absolutely perfect service.”

IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT

The good cooperation during the fit out of the new WAGO building left a positive impression. For another major project, the Minden-based company subsequently purchased another 400 pieces of workspace and meeting room furniture from ASSMANN, which were used to furnish various production facilities and service offices. To ensure that this follow-on order could be completed as quickly and effectively as possible, ASSMANN created a special customised furniture catalogue for WAGO. “We consider this to be part of the service; it also has the added benefit of speeding up the entire process. We want our clients to enjoy the best service at all times – we believe that is what ‘good work’ should look like,” says Strunk.
A GOOD FIT

Bechtle AG’s hardware and software solutions are in demand all over the world. When the IT service provider moved to a larger new building due to the expansion of its team, it intended to take its existing ASSMANN systems along but also needed to add new elements. The main focus was on furniture solutions that promote workplace ergonomics.

Location: Neerpelt, Belgium  Client: Bechtle Direct NV

The paintings’ city
Like no other, the famous painter Peter Paul Rubens changed the face of the city of Antwerp. More than 50 paintings by the master decorate the walls of churches and museums, attracting admirers from all over the world to this port city every year.

Learn more about the painter and his works at: www.visitantwerpen.be/en

1 The Belgian port city of Antwerp is located around 80 kilometres from the small town of Neerpelt

2 Bechtle’s modern new building

Eight thousand employees, 70 systems integrators in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, fourteen international branches and Europe’s number one: that is the spectacular company history of Bechtle AG represented in figures. The IT specialist, headquartered in Neckarsulm, offers a wide-ranging product portfolio that meets the individual requirements of many different industries. Business is booming, as is its Belgian branch in Neerpelt. “At some stage, we had to admit that our team had outgrown our offices. That is when we decided to build and to move into a modern office building with our staff,” explains Ruth Wachelder, Managing Director of Bechtle Belgium.

An interior designer was commissioned with the design of a suitable furnishing concept that would not only add structure to the open-plan spaces but also distribute the existing ASSMANN furniture sensibly across the three floors of the new building. As the Bechtle employees by then already outnumbered the company’s Canvaro desk systems, the interior designer contacted Rob Lukkesen from ASSMANN’s Belgian specialist retail partner company Buropix. “We had partnered with Bechtle when they moved into the previous building, so we immediately knew what solutions were required. However, the design of the Canvaro desks had changed since then. We therefore had to develop a strategy for combining the old and the new systems in a well-balanced way,” explains Lukkesen.
PLOANNED DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL

To ensure that the new Canvaro desks perfectly complemented the existing ones, the move had to be completed in accordance with a detailed schedule. A furniture lift was organised especially for the delivery which then lifted the furniture systems to the respective floors from the outside. The old designs from the previous building were delivered first – for a good reason, as Lukkesen explains: “We decided beforehand that the desks in the old design would be hidden by the new Canvaro systems in order to clearly shift the focus onto the new design.” As soon as the old designs had been moved to their allocated spaces, the new desks, which came directly off the production line in Melle, were delivered. Thanks to detailed room plans, the fitters knew exactly where the new Canvaro systems were to be installed – which ensured that everything ran smoothly. “It was a bit like a game of Tetris: the new systems had to be fitted very precisely to the old ones,” Lukkesen recalls. The experts knew what they were doing, and the Bechtle employees were able to move to their new workstations shortly after the start of 2018.

With their streamlined design, the Allvia storage systems are perfect for Bechtle’s new working environments.
SUCCESSFUL TEAMWORK

Bechtle was impressed by the good cooperation between ASSMANN and Buropix. Rob Lukkesen was subsequently asked to fit out its Dutch branch. Again, this calls for systems that impress with their design as well as their functional features. “I really enjoyed the job in Neerpelt; that is why I am looking forward to the next project. We are bound to be able to impress Bechtle once again with ASSMANN’s high quality office furniture,” says Lukkesen.

WELL-COORDINATED

The interior designer advised Bechtle to also choose ASSMANN storage systems such as Allvia and Pontis to go with the Canvaro desks. To improve the acoustics in the open-plan office areas, the desks were also equipped with sound absorb- ing desktop divider panels. In addition, mobile Pontis folding tables were used in the seminar rooms. Thanks to their folding mechanism and castors, they can be rearranged in minutes. With their clear lines and minimalist look, the ASSMANN systems emphasise the contemporary design of the glazed new building. How- ever, the furniture does more than simply look good: “In the IT industry, people mostly work sitting down. It was therefore particularly important to Bechtle and to us to make products available to the employees that have a positive effect on their performance as well as their health. And that is precisely what Canvaro does,” says Lukkesen. The design is not only equipped with an integrated cable organiser but also with a flexible height adjustment mechanism, so it can be adjusted to perfectly fit the respective body size. This is essential as a back-friendly sitting position depends on the size of three things: the person, the chair and the desk. For example, if a tall employee adjusts his office chair to the maximum height to ensure that he is sitting with his knees at the recommended ninety degree angle, the top of the desk may be too low to allow him to sit upright. Long-term damage to his back and neck can only be prevented if the desk can also be individually adjusted. “It only takes a few movements for each employee to adjust their work- station to the size that is perfect for them. This is a major advantage that benefits all employees – including those who do not actually work at the same desk all the time and move around the building,” says Wachelder.

Rob Lukkesen
ASSMANN specialist retail partner
Buropix

WELL-COORDINATED

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The ASSMANN principle: good work

Everyone is different – and has their own ideas, requirements and goals. The requirements for fit out solutions and office furniture are therefore just as unique. ASSMANN caters to all tastes, finds the right solution and always focuses on the client’s needs.

The key to achieving good work is working well! That is the secret of ASSMANN’s success in a nutshell. Every day, the employees at the company’s main site in Melle and at the international branches and showrooms give their best – be it within our internal digitalised work sequences, in comprehensive consultation meetings on the client’s premises, during the planning and realisation of unique working environments or on the automated, state-of-the-art production lines. Together with their sales partners from specialist office furniture retail companies, the ASSMANN employees simply do their jobs well from start to finish.

A PROMISE IS A PROMISE
To ensure that our specialist retail partners and clients can rely on top product quality and functional office furniture systems, our spectrum of services includes a reliable and punctual delivery service, the careful assembly and fitting of our products on site and guaranteed long-term spare part and product availability. Thanks to our meticulous quality management system, we offer our clients an optimum service from initial consultation to fit out – we simply work well from start to finish.

At the same time, our innovative, future-oriented mindset ensures that we are always one step ahead. We are already developing modern office systems today that facilitate smart workstation networking and new forms of collaboration and communication. Despite the fact that working environments are subject to constant change, one aspect will never change: we will always stay true to ourselves – with kept promises, continuity, passion and of course high quality, “good work”.

The ASSMANN product portfolio includes the following systems:

- **Desk systems**: All of the desk systems impress with an attractive design and can be equipped with clever additional features. With their outstanding functionality and, in part, flexible height adjustment mechanisms, they help to prevent health problems from developing.

- **Storage systems**: From locker cabinets to mobile storage for open-plan concepts and fitting cabinets with front panels that can double as whiteboards – our storage systems offer the right solution for any challenge and result in attractive interior spaces.

- **Reception area systems**: From practical and functional to prestigious and sophisticated; on request, our modular reception desk and counter systems can be customised and equipped with numerous extras.

- **Communication**: Flexible furniture systems that can be combined as desired for seminars, conferences and meetings make it easier to learn and improve the way people communicate – and they come in a wide range of finishes, sizes and design options.

- **Lounge furniture**: For quiet meetings or focused working; together with sound absorbing partitions, our lounge furniture systems can be used to create integrated communication zones in open-plan offices and they also offer a comfortable and relaxed working environment.

- **Acoustics solutions**: From sound absorbing acoustic art panels to stylish dividing screens for breaking up the space – we supply visually attractive solutions that allow people to work quietly and concentrate in open-plan office areas and that create performance enhancing working environments.

- **Well-organised versatility**: From individual workstations, storage solution systems and seminar furniture to lounge furniture and room acoustics elements – the ASSMANN product portfolio offers numerous tried and tested solutions that optimise day-to-day working practice. All product groups and furnishing solutions can also easily be combined with each other. This creates unlimited possibilities for fitting out working environments in a way that is modern and functional.
The University of Greifswald is one of the oldest higher education establishments in Europe. Accordingly, it has amassed a large number of books and magazines over the years. To provide more space for all of this written knowledge, a new faculty library was built in 2016. The furnishing concept for the workstations was developed by ASSMANN and it successfully outranked the competition in an international invitation to tender.

Almost all of the workstations are occupied, there are piles of books on the desks and from time to time, the humming of a laptop can be heard – otherwise, it is very quiet inside the new 4,383 square metre building. Towards the end of the semester, many of the students are drawn to the library to study for their upcoming exams or to continue working on their final dissertation. Since 7 December 2015, students at the University of Greifswald have been able to do so in the new humanities and social sciences faculty library. It is home to 310,000 books and magazines which they can use and is also equipped with 250 new desks. Offering the students the perfect learning atmosphere was important to the University of Greifswald faculty management. With a Europe-wide invitation to tender, the University of Greifswald searched for a competent fit out partner for the workstations in the new faculty library. This was a fantastic challenge for ASSMANN and the company successfully won the contract in collaboration with its specialist retail partner Gohs.

“Several students have been working on their final theses or have used the library to prepare for their exams.”

ASSPECTS PORTFOLIO PROJECT UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD

Portfolios from individual ASSMANN projects can be found in the ASSPECTS and PORTFOLIO PROJECT UNIVERSITY OF GREIFSWALD sections.
point and an Ethernet socket. “As all of the sockets are integrated into the desks, there are no loose cables to get in the way of the students, which is especially useful in the group workspaces. Many of the workstations are also equipped with additional integrated reading lights. Not only the inside of the actual library was furnished with ASSMANN systems; furniture solutions from Melle also create an inviting learning atmosphere.

**DETAILED PLANNING**

The specialist literature for students, lecturers and researchers in the new library building is housed across four floors. The ASSMANN systems perfectly blend in with the structure of the space on every floor. The minimalistic furniture also creates a well-balanced and quiet working environment. The mostly white desks also work perfectly with the overall concept and establish a matching colour connection with the bookshelves and the balustrade that frames the open floors. Completing the library to this impressive standard called for expert logistics. From early November 2015 onwards, twelve tons of books had to be transported through Greifswald city centre to the new library location near the harbour every day. The existing books from the faculty’s fifteen departments had to be catalogued and collated at the new location; in addition, some of the literature from the university’s central library was also relocated and had to be added to the new inventory. “Relocating such an extensive library is a mammoth project. It was therefore important to the university’s faculty management team that the fit out partner for this project is one hundred per cent reliable - like ASSMANN,” Gohs says, happy with the outcome.

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On the trail of Caspar David Friedrich

One of the city’s famous native sons is the painter Caspar David Friedrich. A picture trail invites you to stretch your legs after the long drive in the van. Starting at the house where Friedrich was born, the most important places in the artist’s life and the places that inspired him can easily be explored on foot.

Find more information and a picture trail map at: www.caspar-david-friedrich-greifswald.de

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**PROJECT DATA**

**Project:**
New faculty library building

**Specialist retailer partner:**
Gohs GmbH, Ribnitz-Damgarten, Germany

**Client:**
Federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, represented by Betrieb für Bau und Liegenschaften (BBL M-V), higher education establishment and hospital construction division

**Client details:**
BBL M-V is responsible for the planning and realisation of construction projects commissioned by the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the German government.

**Brief:**
To create an optimum learning environment for the students in the new faculty library building, the specialist retailer Gohs, ASSMANN had to compete against international competitors in a public invitation to tender.
Open and dynamic – that was the fit out brief provided by GISA for the newly created open-plan office environment at its headquarters in Halle an der Saale. The concept for the new office space was supplied by ASSMANN and the Canvaro sit-stand desks, which encourage people to move about more as they work, are the stars of the show.

Location: Halle an der Saale, Germany  Client: GISA

People who develop IT solutions usually spend most of their working hours sitting in front of a computer. This monotonous position can put a strain on their backs and it frequently leads to pain and tension. To prevent such health problems, GISA decided to choose furniture systems that take workplace ergonomics into account when it converted parts of the company head office. Together with ASSMANN specialist retail consultant Uta Piltz, the IT service provider developed an attractive furnishing concept. “When a company like GISA moves from a classic office structure to an open-plan space, acoustics solutions are of course called for. In this case, it was also important that the systems worked perfectly with the sit-stand desks the client wanted. We therefore decided to opt for a combination of Applica and Canvaro,” says Piltz. In several places in the newly created open-plan office, Piltz connected two desks with an Applica element to create private and soundproofed cubicles for concentrated working. The integrated interfaces and hidden power and data cable management solutions also ensure a tidy overall impression. “We decided to opt for the version with an electric motor for GISA. The employees can adjust the height of their desks from 630 to 1,280 millimetres almost completely noiselessly at the touch of a button. The touch buttons also make it possible to select and save three custom-defined heights,” explains Piltz. The ASSMANN furniture that was selected not only impressed with its functionality and optimum workplace ergonomics but also with its sophisticated design – all in all, the ideal conditions for a successful start in the new open-plan office.

Piltz, the IT service provider.

PROJECT DATA
Project: Partial conversion of head office
Specialist retail partner: BREVO-SERVICE Volker Thiel, Thalheim, Germany
Client: GISA GmbH
Client details: Based in Saxony-Anhalt, the full service provider of IT solutions has been offering innovative solutions for industry-specific processes since 1993.

Brief: The new open-plan office concept was to be equipped with sound deadening systems. The company also intended to furnish its workplaces with sit-stand desks for the first time, in order to encourage its staff to move more.

Challenge: The transformation of the office’s existing cubicle-like structures into an open-plan concept called for detailed planning and the precise coordination of all contractors.

Are there other advantages that speak in favour of more movement in the workplace?

Thiesbrummel: Absolutely! Alternating between sitting and sitting activates the cardiovascular system and relieves the muscles and the pressure on the spinal discs and spine. Standing uses more muscles more than sitting. However, you should not stand all day at work as this puts a strain on the leg veins and is too much for the muscles. The key to a healthy back is changing your position regularly.

Can sit-stand desks prevent back pain?

Thiesbrummel: Yes, in fact, alternating between standing up and sitting down is not only good for your body but also for your mind. Moving about boosts our circulation; we feel more alert, are more efficient and creative – which increases the satisfaction of both the employee and the employer.

1 In the centre of Halle an der Saale’s market square, a statue commemorates George Frideric Handel.
2 At the workstations, the Canvaro sit-stand desks are used in combination with the Applica docking system.
3 The colourful Sineus seating elements perfectly match GISA’s colour concept.
4 The meeting rooms are equipped with Pontia folding tables, which allows them to be adapted to suit different requirements.
Driven by passion

Markets undergo transformations – issues such as Work 4.0 and the digitalisation of office work are particularly obvious examples. ASSMANN is addressing these challenges. The company not only supplies a comprehensive choice of furniture for working environments but also provides competent advice and planning support, as well as complete fit out services, logistics and an assembly and fitting service – and it intends to continue doing so.

1. Development and industrial production
   - Efficient and state-of-the-art production facilities
   - Desk, carcase and lounge systems
   - Seminar, reception and soundproofing furniture
   - Quick delivery range and custom furniture development

2. Advice and planning support
   - Comprehensive consultation meeting and needs analysis
   - Customised and conceptual space design
   - Detailed planning of most efficient use of space and product recommendations
   - Planning acoustics and lighting

3. Logistics and assembly and fitting service
   - Reliable and punctual delivery service
   - Meticulous and precise furniture assembly and fitting
   - Guaranteed future availability of spare parts and products
   - Additional hire and leasing service

Good work starts with good planning. After all, the requirements that office furniture and fit out solutions must meet differ as much as the various industries and working environments. In order to meet our clients’ high standards, a comprehensive initial consultation meeting and needs analysis are very important to ASSMANN. Customised suitable solutions are not planned until the client’s requirements have been defined. The ongoing professional development of our client consultants and specialist retail partners ensures that our clients always benefit from the most up to date office planning expertise.

In the next step, ASSMANN then develops a customised and conceptual space design together with the specialist retail partners. It includes a detailed plan of how to use the available space most efficiently as well as selected, needs-oriented product recommendations and effective acoustics planning. Step by step, we develop solutions that optimise everyday working life. Listening, understanding, planning – here at ASSMANN, this is how we develop space concepts that meet the individual requirements and perfectly match the client’s needs.

1. We develop space concepts that meet the individual requirements
2. After delivery, our trained staff ensure that the office systems are expertly assembled, fitted and commissioned
3. Our client consultants and specialist retail partners listen carefully and recommend products that meet the client’s needs

Well-equipped

Our future goal is clear: we intend to go on being as successful as we have been. That is why ASSMANN will go on developing and manufacturing innovative office furniture systems and smart fit out concepts with the aid of state-of-the-art and automated production equipment. When it comes to the manufacture and development of office furniture and the extremely diverse range of services and support services, we must not merely respond to the latest trends and market developments but must also be well-equipped to take them on board.
The UICC is committed to the prevention of cancer and to supporting everyone who is affected by this disease all over the world. When the UICC moved into new offices at its Geneva location, the organisation wanted to thank its staff for their dedication by providing a modern, health promoting office concept developed by ASSMANN.

Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Client: Union Internationale Contre le Cancer

For more than 85 years, the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) has been working hard to research, provide information about and treat cancer. Founded in Paris in 1933, the UICC now has more than 1,000 member organisations and is represented in around 160 countries. Together with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Union also established World Cancer Day, for example. At its numerous international locations, the staff address a wide range of issues. These include global access to important drugs, the realisation of vaccination projects, the breaking down of prejudices and the dispelling of false myths surrounding cancer. Its work in Switzerland involves an unusually high level of teamwork. In Geneva, several organisations that are members of the UICC and are dedicated to cancer research work in one location. The Geneva staff were to relocate to a new office within the city: in future, fifty of them would be working in a modern office environment in a new building complex.

The challenge was that on the one hand, the individual organisations intended to network and communicate whilst on the other hand, they also work independently in their own particular areas of expertise. Maria Barbara Leon, the UICC’S chief operative manager, was impressed by ASSMANN’S well thought-out concept. “We wanted enough space for open communication with each other. As a society that is dedicated to healthcare, it was of course also hugely important to us that our staff work in an environment that takes workplace ergonomics into account. ASSMANN knew straight away how to realise this.”

Hans Wermelinger from the ASSMANN office in Switzerland took over the realisation of the office design. The space to be furnished had a total area of 495 square metres over two floors and included open-plan, shared offices and a modular meeting room. “The concept perfectly matches the requirements of the heterogeneous team,” Wermelinger says about his design. “Everyone is given space to retreat to but can also communicate quickly and easily with colleagues.” In order to respond to the client’s health-focus, ASSMANN integrated the Sympas ergonomic sit-stand desks. The system features an impressive streamlined design. The motorised height adjustment mechanism makes it possible for the UICC staff to comfortably make the change from a sitting to a standing position. “We consciously decided to opt for an automatic mechanism to make it easier for our staff to change the desk height several times a day, if they want to,” says Maria Barbara Leon. To make the best possible use of

PERFECT MIX
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1 The Pontis table systems have castors, so they can be arranged flexibly
2 The cobbled alleyways in Geneva’s historic city centre
Since we are dedicated to promoting health, we also wanted ergonomic workplaces for our staff.

Maria Barbara Leon
Chief Operative Manager UICC

the available space, the new sit-stand-elements were positioned together in groups of two and four. Another new UICC office highlight: each desk is equipped with a Pontis mobile pedestal that not only offers plenty of storage space but can also be used as a seat for short consultations with colleagues at their desk. Staff can sit comfortably on the cushion on top of the pedestal, and the colourful accents provided by the cushion covers lighten the atmosphere of this modern office space.

STAFF APPRECIATION

Thanks to its relocation to the new Geneva offices, the Union for International Cancer Control is now completely free to practice teamwork. At the same time, the ergonomic workstations support health promotion – the same cause to which the organisation dedicates itself every day. “The concept idea, the design, the price/performance ratio – everything is just right. If we had to make the decision about whether to realise the project with ASSMANN all over again, we would still come to exactly the same conclusion,” says Maria Barbara Leon, clearly happy with the outcome. She adds: “With the new office environment, we wanted to give something back to the staff who work so hard for the organisation every day. We have certainly achieved this!”

ASSPECTS PORTFOLIO PROJECT UICC SWITZERLAND

PROJECT DATA

Project:
New office building

Specialist retail partner:
ORMA Swiss, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Client:
Union Internationale Contre le Cancer – Union for International Cancer Control

Client details:
The Union for International Cancer Control is committed to the prevention of cancer and to supporting everyone that is affected by this disease all over the world.

Brief:
Within the scope of the UICC’s relocation to a new office building, the organisation wanted to create open-plan working environments for fifty of its staff.

Challenge:
Several organisations share the same office space. There was a need firstly for individual workstations and secondly for spaces that would facilitate communication. The workstations were also to be equipped with ergonomic sit-stand desks.

3 The Sympos sit-stand desks can be individually adjusted
4 Maria Barbara Leon from UICC was the project manager responsible for the fit out of the new building
5 Pontis table systems are used in the cafeteria
Thanks to ASSMANN, the new design for the Windmöller & Hölscher (W&H) offices is another reflection of the fact that the company is in step with the times. The design thoroughly reflects the company’s modern corporate culture.

Project: Construction and conversion of office buildings
Specialist retail partner: IBS Bürosysteme, Münster, Germany
Client: Windmöller & Hölscher KG

Assmann, the building of the former J. H. Gempt wire rope factory is now used for events
2 In the open-plan office area, the staff work at Canvaro Compact desks
3 Where elements provide privacy and soundproofing. Most of the desks are also equipped with power points

Innovative thinking and continuous further development – Windmöller & Hölscher has operated according to these principles ever since it was founded in Lengerich in 1869. The company is one of the world’s leading suppliers of machines and systems for manufacturing and processing flexible packaging. It offers its customers a one-stop service, including the initial consultation and development, the supply of high-quality machinery and the entire packaging production process. The well-established company with more than 1,900 employees at its site in Lengerich can meet all requirements. “Windmöller & Hölscher is characterised by a marked culture of communication and a passion for new ideas,” says ASSMANN project manager André Strunk. “We wanted the new offices to visibly reflect this modern and successful concept.” The company asked the office furniture specialists from Melle to realise the project. Confidence in the fact that they would deliver high-quality and reliable work played a major role in the decision as the project harboured a special challenge: all of the offices were to be refurbished by the time W&H celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2019. Besides the tight schedule, the realisation also called for the demolition of old buildings and the subsequent construction of new office buildings, which then needed to be fitted out.

**Pure Innovation**

The ASSMANN team remained true to its principle of “good work”. In collaboration with its specialist retail partner IBS, it developed a well-thought-out concept that would interfere with day-to-day running as little as possible – in just five weeks. By working one floor at a time and performing the step-by-step assembly and fitting of all furniture while the IT equipment was being installed, the company’s departments were soon able to move into the new premises. As soon as the move was complete, the old buildings in the grounds were demolished and replaced with newly constructed ones. ASSMANN made it possible to create 250 innovative workstations in record time. The office furniture expert impressed with attractive yet functional systems that are also ergonomic. The open-plan office spaces, individual offices and meeting rooms perfectly reflect Windmöller & Hölscher’s modern corporate culture. Thanks to the ergonomic furniture elements and customised solutions, the new workstations adapt perfectly to each staff member’s requirements and make it easy for them to work in a healthy way in a positive environment that inspires creativity and an open corporate culture.

**Town with a view**

Lengerich’s landmark is the Gempf tower, a factory chimney stack that is 60 metres high. It features an integrated coolant tank and dates from 1919. Today, it towers over the many events held in the former factory’s grounds.

View upcoming events at: www.gemphalle-lengerich.de
Gazprom is one of the world’s leading energy companies and consistently pursues further expansion through the acquisition of shareholdings in other oil and electricity companies such as Sibneft in Moscow, for example. The oil company resulting from this merger has been acquired by Gazprom Neft, which developed a concept for oil company Gazprom Neft and was awarded the contract on the strength of its modern, functional systems. The Gazprom commission headed by Anatolyevitch. To get a better impression about the ASSMANN office furniture,” says Alexey Pashin from Büromöbel OOO, Moscow, Russia. On the seven floors, around 500 workstations in open-plan office areas as well as conference rooms and reception areas needed fitting out. The colour scheme was particularly eye-catching: the desktop divider panels in the open-plan office areas are blue to reflect the corporate colours. Both the group workstations and also the bench solutions were equipped with acoustics solutions, which match the office chairs that were chosen.

PERFECT PARTNERSHIP
Once back in Khanty-Mansiysk, things had to move quickly: the project managers wanted to use the short frost-free time of the year to complete the building and fit it out. In view of the tight schedule, every move had to be planned meticulously and the logistics needed to run smoothly.

GOOD SERVICE
Despite the long distance, ASSMANN also kept its quality promise in Russia. Like all clients, Gazprom can rely on an excellent spare parts service and guaranteed future product availability. “This is a global/ unparalleled sign of quality and one of the reasons why we enjoy working with ASSMANN. We know that our clients can count on having a reliable office fit out partner for many years,” Pashin says. 

Qualities – Made in Germany
The Gazprom commission headed by general director Dr Sergey Anatolyevitch was particularly impressed by the functional technical features of the desk systems. “This, together with their modern design and the excellent price/performance ratio, thoroughly impressed us about the ASSMANN office furniture,” says Anatolyevitch. To get a better impression of the German-made quality, the responsible Gazprom project team travelled to Melle to see the furniture production line for themselves. The Russian guests were particularly interested in experiencing the entire production cycle live and also in convincing themselves of the furniture’s sustainability. “We wanted to see with our own eyes how the furniture is made from sustainable timber stocks to reassure ourselves that we will be able to recycle it after it has been used for many years in our offices,” Anatolyevitch explains.

PROJECT DATA
Project: New office building
Specialist retail partner: Büromöbel OOO, Moscow, Russia
Client: Gazprom Neft
Client details: Gazprom Neft is one of the world’s biggest oil producers. The group, headquartered in Moscow, has proven oil resources of 4.5 billion barrels.
Brief: The new office building was to be equipped with modern furniture in colours that reflect Gazprom’s corporate design.
Challenge: Due to the short frost-free period, the construction of the building and its subsequent furnishing had to be completed to a tight schedule – an extreme challenge in terms of the transport logistics.

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ASSMANN T2
FACTS AND FIGURES

In the course of the trip so far, the Assmann T2 has visited several towns and cities in various countries and has proved itself to be a reliable companion. But what's under the bonnet of this iconic companion? How many kilometres did the T2 travel along the way? These facts and figures provide some interesting insights into its trip.

20,797
kilometres

62,896
pieces of furniture

VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

Year of manufacture: 1977
Engine: Four-stroke boxer petrol engine
Power: 50 bhp (37 kW)
Top speed: 130 km/h
Weight: 1320 kg
NEW LIFE IN OLD SPACES

Location: Wuppertal, Germany  Client: BARMER Pensionskasse
When area manager Ulrich Kreuzer-Kubandt first viewed the grounds of office material manufacturer ELBA’s former factory in 2015, he couldn’t actually imagine that what he was looking at would become the new offices of BARMER Pensionskasse. The complex of buildings situated directly next to the Wupper river offers 7,800 square metres of floor space on five floors. Plenty of room for Ulrich Kreuzer-Kubandt and his colleagues; however, the building had stood empty for many years, which had left its mark. The plaster was crumbling off the walls, the floors were certainly no longer even, and some of the windows had been smashed. This was supposed to become an office environment? Inconceivable – to begin with. “We had already been searching for new premises for quite some time and had mainly viewed new buildings. The old ELBA factory was of course the complete opposite. I wasn’t sure that we would actually move into it until I saw a model that showed what the space could look like after the refurbishment,” says Kreuzer-Kubandt.

**TURNING OLD INTO NEW**

The refurbishment work started shortly after the lease was signed in January 2016. In 2018, the BARMER Pensionskasse was to move into the top floor of the old ELBA building as its main tenant. When the time for the interior fit out had come, Ulrich Kreuzer-Kubandt approached ASSMANN specialist retail partner Streit in Hausach near Freiburg. The large office space, which is interrupted in the middle by a common room with a kitchen, was to be furnished for the 26 staff in a way that was both effective and design-oriented. Initially, classic two person offices were planned. However, the project team headed by Ulrich Kreuzer-Kubandt ultimately opted for an open-plan space solution, accompanied by integrated communication areas. To ensure that the open-plan working environment would be as quiet as possible, the specialist retailer for office interiors decided to fit wall-to-wall carpet and sound-deadening suspended ceiling panels. The ASSMANN desks that were chosen were also equipped with VitEco partitioning systems.

**AUDIBLY GOOD WORK**

The padding in the fabric-covered VitEco partitioning elements has a sound deadening effect, which ensures that staff who sit opposite each other are not disturbed by their colleague’s phone calls, for example. What is known as “reverberation”

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1. BARMER Pensionskasse is housed in a former factory building directly next to the Wupper river.
2. Canvaro, Allvia, Pontis and the high desk version of Solos create a modern office environment.

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**PROJECT DATA**

- **Project**: Revitalisation of an old factory building
- **Specialist retail partner**: Streit Service & Solution GmbH & Co. KG, Hausach, Germany
- **Client**: BARMER Ersatzkasse VVaG Pensionskasse (Barmer company pension fund)
- **Client details**: BARMER Pensionskasse administers the pensions of current and former Barmer employees and their dependants. Founded in 1932 in Berlin, the company is now one of Germany’s oldest and largest pension scheme administrators.
- **Brief**: The interior was to create a contemporary contrast to the old factory building. In addition, systems were to be used that would make it easier to work in an open-plan office.
- **Challenge**: The large offices in the former ELBA factory have high ceilings that call for a clever acoustics concept – to ensure that it is possible to work in a concentrated way without distractions.
"time" is a useful indicator of how good the acoustics are in an office. The reverberation time is defined as the time it takes for sound to decrease by 60 dB after a loud bang, for example. Long reverberation times result in sound layers that make it more difficult to understand speech. The padding in the Viteco partitions promotes shorter reverberation times – provided they are arranged correctly. When they are installed, the elements must be positioned as close to the workstations as possible and should sit flush with the adjacent surfaces. If this is not strictly adhered to during their installation, the soundproofing effect of the solutions may be reduced.

The Viteco elements not only improve the acoustics but also provide privacy, which promotes concentrated working. The systems are supplemented by Viteco rails, which are equipped with LiftTec screen mounts. Below the desk top, a clever cable management system also...
keeps everything neat and tidy. This means that nothing distracts from the streamlined design of the workstations, which is quite unusual because for BARMER Pensionskasse, Streit opted for white desk surfaces with anthracite coloured trim, rather than plain desks. This design approach is also continued on the storage systems and high desks. “Even at the conceptualisation stage, I was already impressed by this eye for detail. The old factory building has a unique charm, and the furniture should also reflect this,” says Kreuzer-Kubandt. To give the staff the opportunity to retreat for meetings, Streit also integrated some round glass cubicles, which were furnished with ASSMANN cabinets. The office fit out specialist also asked a joiner to create a customised highlight: the Alvia filing cabinets were integrated into a solid wood frame with a curved shape that perfectly follows the shape of the glass cubicles. As well as being an eye-catcher, the other side of this customised cabinetry also offers space for printers and a coat rack.

THERE AT LAST
In March 2018, the time had finally come: the BARMER Pensionskasse staff moved into the new premises and saw the finished interior for the first time. “We get a lot of praise for our modern working environments,” Kreuzer-Kubandt says, delighted with the response. The BARMER staff were also full of praise for the interior. “As a Barmer subsidia ry, Barmer Pensionskasse was originally also housed at Barmer’s main office. At some point, it was decided that we would move out and look for a new office building because there simply wasn’t enough space any more. Many of our BARMER colleagues have already visited us and they love the premises and the view.” The old factory building even has more to offer, because as tenants, the BARMER Pensionskasse staff are also permitted to use the roof terrace. From there, they can enjoy amazing views across Wuppertal and can also watch the city’s famous suspension railway several times a day as it whizzes right past the factory building.

1 Ulrich Kreuzer-Kubandt was the BARMER Pensionskasse project manager and is more than happy with the result
2 The wooden cladding on the Alvia filing cabinets was custom-made and perfectly integrates into the newly created office environments
Veolia Water Technologies needed more space and therefore decided to extend its Celle head office as soon as possible. The water treatment expert wanted to make good use of the interim period before the start of the construction work and opted for a short-term solution. In September 2017, the container offices were erected directly opposite the main building. Twelve metal beams were precisely connected to one another to offer an additional 174 square metres of workspace. Only a month later, the staff from the After Sales and Quality, Health, Security, and Environment (QHSE) departments were able to move into their new offices. Along with three allocated team offices, the group of containers also offered a meeting room, a lounge, a study for projects and a flexible office that could be used by staff from various different departments. For the company, the container office solution offered two advantages. Firstly, the new offices were up and ready for occupation in no time at all. Secondly, they also gave Veolia the chance to test out the furnishing concept that was later to be used in the new building.

**Location:** Celle, Germany  
**Client:** Veolia Water Technologies

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**A BUILDING BLOCK CONCEPT FOR OFFICES**

Quickly assembled, infinitely extendable, surprisingly comfortable – container offices offer additional short-term workspace. Veolia therefore also decided to opt for this spacious temporary solution until the completion of its new head office building. At the same time, the company wanted to test out furniture systems for use in the new building.

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**Veolia Water Technologies Deutschland GmbH**  
**Specialist retail partner:** Abenhausen, Celle, Germany  
**Project:** Container office fit out  
**Brief:** The group of container offices erected in the company’s grounds was to be equipped with 22 workstations with sit-stand desks as well as acoustic solutions.  
**Challenge:** The container office fit out was also to introduce a design concept that could then be fully transferred to the planned new head office building on completion. The furniture systems therefore had to make a good impression and create an inviting and cozy atmosphere, even in an extremely compact space.

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**PROJECT DATA**

**Client:** Veolia Water Technologies Deutschland GmbH  
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**Historic city centre**

Around 400 half-timbered buildings line the streets of Celle’s historic city centre. The most famous is the magnificent Hoppener Haus, which dates back to 1532.

*Find more information and a map of Celle’s historic city centre at: [www.celle.travel]*
GOOD DECISION
Veolia commissioned ASSMANN specialist retail partner Christiane Abenhausen with the design of the furnishing concept. In close cooperation with the company, the expert developed a functional furnishing concept that perfectly fitted into the available space. “The container passage is very narrow and we had to find solutions for the smaller offices that were easy to assemble and fit, even in extremely confined spaces,” Abenhausen recalls. She therefore selected the Canvaro Compact product line. The desk systems for group working spaces can be extended up to twelve individual units. They are equipped with integrated screens for privacy, which also provide soundproofing, and power and data cables are organised with the aid of cable trunking. They are also very easy to assemble and fit – which was important, as the systems are to be dismantled again in 2020, when they will be moved into the new building. “The ASSMANN fitters do not connect the centre supports of the Canvaro Compact to the other elements until they are on site. This makes the individual parts easy to transport and the actual assembly only takes a few hours,” says Abenhausen.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM
For Veolia, it was the sit-stand mechanism of the desk system that was decisive: each individual workstation can be adjusted to a suitable height at the push of a button. This will allow some of the staff to work standing up whilst their colleagues are sitting down to work. Roman Reichert, data scientist with Veolia, loves this: “Thanks to the new sit-stand desks, I now work almost exclusively standing up. On a normal working day, I sit down for a maximum of twenty per cent of my working hours. This really relieves my back.” To ensure that concentrated working is possible both standing and seated, all of the tables are also equipped with additional Viteco partition elements. Fitted directly above the cable trunking, they not only hide the power and data cables but also ensure that the visual heights remain unchanged throughout the space, even if the desks are all set at different heights. “Although this feature is initially not that important in the temporary containers, we wanted to try out all of the solutions we intend to install in the new building,” explains Abenhausen. And the trial was a success: some offices in the existing main building have already been furnished with additional ASSMANN solutions – and following their successful trial in the container, the decision to use Canvaro Compact, Viteco and co. in the new head office has already been made.

“We decided to opt for furniture systems that perfectly combine design with ergonomics.”

Christiane Abenhausen, ASSMANN specialist retail partner

1 Viteco partitioning systems create privacy and also have a sound-proofing effect
2 The container constellation at Veolia Water Technologies
3 Veolia team member Roman Reichert at his Canvaro Compact sit-stand desk
4 Viteco partition elements can be used and combined flexibly
Every year, ASSMANN delivers around 50,000 pieces of office furniture to clients all over the world – and the international demand for our office furniture is steadily increasing.

From Finland and France to the UAE, Russia and Singapore – our office furniture systems and furnishing solutions can be found wherever companies decide to opt for functional workstations in contemporary designs. To meet our own high quality and reliability standards, all furniture systems are manufactured exclusively at our Melle site. By deciding to manufacture in Germany, we are also supporting the local economy and therefore meeting our obligation, as a well-established family-owned business, to provide regional employment.

From our main site in the Osnabrücker Land region, the pre-assembled furniture systems are shipped around the globe by road, sea or air. For example, if ASSMANN realises a project in Singapore, the finished piece of furniture will travel by sea to its destination in Asia, which takes around six weeks.

To ensure that even high-volume orders are completed without a hitch, our export experts deal with the international processes. The complex shipping documents and the logistics are coordinated at our offices in Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland with the support of our respective local specialist retail partners.

A delivery to the Russian research station Memy in Antarctica posed yet another rather unusual logistical challenge. In this case, the 50 workstations produced in Melle were taken to Antarctica by sea, flown to the station by helicopter and fitted and assembled there.

Thanks to teamwork, extremely detailed planning and perfectly organised processes, orders of this calibre are no problem for ASSMANN.

In order to be able to offer competent advice to clients all over the world, we communicate not only in German but also in English and French. Manuals in several languages also ensure the smooth commissioning and operation of the office furniture systems once they have been installed.

International clients can, of course, also view the ASSMANN products locally and up close. Visitors to our showrooms in London, Glasgow, Paris, Neuchâtel, Vienna and Amsterdam as well as Moscow and St Petersburg can view our latest office furniture system ranges and furnishing solutions in situ. In this way, our clients who are further away from the ASSMANN showrooms in Germany’s major cities can see and feel the quality, functional features and attractive design of our products.

Our almost daily exports to the UK’s capital London are just one example of how well-organised our processes are. Due to the complex traffic infrastructure, the shipping process is challenging and involves lots of paperwork – such as applying for special permits and the presentation of detailed routes. To ensure that our office furniture systems still arrive reliably and on time, the furniture is transferred to small vans at the ASSMANN hub just outside of London and then delivered to our clients from there.
Cruise line operator Seabourn provides first-class services to those who want to travel the world in exceptional comfort. The British-American company offers sea cruises on small, extremely luxurious ships. As such, the office space furnishing on the Odyssey, which was fresh from the dockyard, needed to be equally elegant and luxurious. ASSMANN was the right partner for this special commission: “For example, the Rondana tables and customised hanging cabinets with swing doors were fitted in only eight hours. Thanks to our eye for detail, we made efficient use of the confined space aboard ship,” says Mick Simmons, the ASSMANN project manager from our UK branch.

In addition, all of the furniture had to be firmly anchored to meet the respective security requirements. It must not move about in rough weather, for example. In this way, ASSMANN once again realised a concept that used the available space efficiently and proved that it can deliver tailor-made solutions for any workspace – even on the high seas.

Enjoying the world

Traveling by sea to the world’s most beautiful destinations and disembarking to explore the countries en route – it’s easy on a luxury liner such as the Seabourn Odyssey. The cruise ship travels the waters of Central Europe and the Caribbean ocean at a speed of nineteen knots – a pleasant alternative to a T2 VW van!

See the luxury liner’s facts and figures at: www.seabourn.com/en_US/cruise-ships/seabourn-odyssey/2.html

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1 Firmly anchored to the floor, the Rondana systems won’t budge even in rough weather
2 The Seabourn is almost 200 metres long and can carry around 450 passengers
3 Finished: the (almost) completed offices on the Odyssey
A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Location: Rödinghausen, Germany  Client: Häcker Kitchen
From a joinery workshop to an internationally active industrial company: Häcker Kitchen thinks big and does things properly.

This maxim also applied to the new building that the company was planning to construct next to its existing head office. When it came to fitting out the team office interiors, the company relied primarily on acoustics solutions and ergonomic furniture systems from ASSMANN.

P roduction facilities that extend over 1,113,800 square metres, around 1,700 employees and an annual turnover of around 550 million euros: Häcker Küchen GmbH & Co. KG can look back over an impressively successful company history that spans more than 70 years. The Rödinghausen-based family-owned business not only manufactures kitchens that impress with outstanding quality and attention to detail – the company also brings eye-catching contemporary design features to the domestic environment.

The excellent craftsmanship proved so popular with customers that the company had to rapidly expand its workforce in order to meet the growing demand. However, the kitchen manufacturer’s growing workforce had led to a lack of space. The head office building was soon stretched to its limits, so Häcker decided to rent additional offices in Melle as a temporary measure. However, the company wanted to find a long-term solution, so its management board decided in the autumn of 2016 to construct a new building to create additional space for the workforce. A new extension with an area of over 7,500 square metres was added to the existing head office building. It was completed in June 2018. Besides training rooms and a 1,000 square metre kitchen range showroom, the new building also offers enough space for 300 workstations.

Häcker planned with foresight; a third of the desks are not yet occupied. By the end of 2019, they will be used by new team members, who will help the kitchen manufacturer to write the next chapters of its success story with their expertise.

To ensure that the new building not only impresses with its streamlined design and the use of numerous glass elements but also offers each individual employee added value, the team offices were to be furnished with functional and ergonomic furniture.

GOOD WORK – MULTIPLIED BY THREE HUNDRED

The kitchen manufacturer therefore contacted ASSMANN whilst the construction work was still underway. As the fit out of 300 workstations is quite a sizeable project that calls for extensive consultation meetings, services and quality planning, it was decided that the specialist retail partner BPA Büroeinrichtungs GmbH should also be brought on board. The project was managed by Benjamin Kaufmann, area sales manager and quality office specialist consultant, who provided Häcker with expert support during the eighteen-month construction phase.

When it came to furnishing the new offices, the most important aspects for Häcker were acoustics solutions and height ad-
justable sit-stand desks. “For us, it was important that the investment in a building project like this would reap long-term rewards. That is why we selected all furniture systems with the latest standards in mind. We were not only looking for an attractive design but also wanted height adjustable desks that actively contribute to the wellbeing of our employees,” explains Stefan Möller, Managing Director Häcker Kitchen.

Cable trunking ensures that power and data cables are kept tidy and do not get in the way when the desk is moved up and down. This also guarantees that all of the cables move up and down together with the desk without any problems. The Canvaro desks offer another advantage: in combination with Viteco desktop screens, they create the necessary peace and quiet in the team offices. “We consciously decided to break with the classic arrangement of two desks opposite each other and to actively promote cooperation by establishing group offices,” explains Jochen Finkemeier, the owner and CEO of Häcker Kitchen. “Each room houses a complete team, including the respective team manager. This brings the team members closer together and encourages them to communicate. Of course, this concept can only work if we also create an environment for our staff that allows them to work in a concentrated way. That is why it was very important to us that all offices were equipped with acoustics solutions that ensure quiet and also look good.”

To match the other design elements in the new building, BPA opted for green Viteco elements. Fitted flush with the desktop, the padding inside the screens deadens sounds like people making phone calls or typing on their keyboard, for example. It also provides visual privacy and hides unsightly cable connections.

PERFECT ADDITION

Every workstation is equipped with handleless metal front Ponto mobile pedestals that provide plenty of storage space. They are also white and perfectly match the Canvaro systems. Besides these personal storage systems, all of the offices are also equipped with additional cabinets manufactured by Häcker in the company’s own production facility. “It is always a challenge to combine furniture made by different manufacturers. However, Häcker and ASSMANN cooperated closely on the design of the cabinets that the company produced itself, to ensure that both systems would match each other perfectly,” says Kaufmann, delighted with the overall look. Häcker not only made the cabinets but also manufactured wooden partitions that divide the open-plan offices in an optimum way. “From start to finish, this project was characterised by good teamwork – and the offices certainly reflect this!”

REALISATION ACCORDING TO PLAN

To ensure that it would be possible to realise this well-balanced overall design exactly as planned, all contractors had to be coordinated closely in the run-up to the move into the new building. The lease on the additional offices in Melle expired just as the last finishing touches were being added to the interior of the new building. “Of course, we did not expect our team members to work on a building site. So in the end, we needed to be able to rely on the promised delivery dates. And everything ran smoothly: ASSMANN delivered on time, and BPA fitted the furniture without any hitches,” Sandra Kempf recalls. As the assistant to the management board, she managed the project after the conceptualisation phase. Shortly after the move into the new premises, the staff already provided some initial feedback: “The response to the sit-stand desks is particularly positive, although everyone also feels that the room acoustics are very comfortable. That was exactly what the management board was aiming for at the planning stage – and thanks to BPA and ASSMANN, we have successfully realised it.”
Working in a holiday atmosphere – at first glance, the Dataport interior might inspire such thoughts. At its head office in Altenholz near Kiel, the IT service provider has opted for nautical elements – as well as soundproofing system solutions. Working there is not only a visually attractive but also an acoustically pleasant experience.

Location: Kiel, Germany  Client: Dataport

We live in a networked world. For this reason, all sorts of network services and data privacy concepts are in particularly high demand. Dataport in Altenholz near Kiel is a company that provides precisely such services. Around 2,400 staff work for the IT services provider, which also has branches in Bremen, Hamburg, Rostock, Lüneburg, Magdeburg and Halle an der Saale. In fact, the demand for the company’s services had grown so much that it was running out of space at its head office in Altenholz near Kiel. The decision was made to adapt the building to fit the company’s needs. First of all, the basement was exposed and windows were added. Then the office space on the ground floor was completely reconfigured. Instead of several offices, a large open-plan office space was created and a new lounge area was added. The company invited tenders for the fit-out, and interior designer Wiebke Brendel won the contract. “The interior look is guided by Dataport’s corporate design. In keeping with the design we put forward for the tender, the workstations are arranged in rows just like sailing boats in a marina. This results in a completely new way of working that meets the user requirements. Maritime images create a feeling of expansiveness and reinterpreted harbour objects highlight special areas.”

QUIET HARBOUR AMBIENCE

To ensure that the nautical design was not only visually impressive but also resulted in a good working environment, Brendel decided to opt for sound deadening furniture in the open-plan spaces.
ASSMANN provided the respective system solutions. “The office furniture perfectly matches the look I had come up with. It creates the ideal conditions for flexible, open and ergonomic working,” says Brendel. The interior designer realised her furnishing concept, which blends in well with the maritime atmosphere and offers the staff audible added value, in close cooperation with the Melle-based family-owned business. For example, some of the workstations are equipped with light grey Syneo systems which not only provide privacy but also have a soundproofing effect – thereby creating the ideal conditions for concentrated working.

**TIDY**

Another ASSMANN solution that impressed Brendel was the Applica docking system. It is an understated white colour, and all of a workstation’s cables can be quickly hidden away inside it in an orderly fashion. The system, which has won a Red Dot Design Award, also offers numerous HDMI, USB or DVI interfaces. “Applica combines IT and communication technology with functional and attractive design – and is therefore perfect for Dataport’s contemporary working environment,” says Brendel. Integrated power points also take care of the power supply. Thanks to the neatly organised cables, nothing distracts from the Kiel office’s nautical feel. The acoustics solutions she opted for also create a perfect working atmosphere that fully meets the requirements. Only the sound of waves is better.
EFFICIENT PLANNING

Creating communication zones whilst at the same time minimising noise and ensuring that the staff can concentrate in an open-plan office – ASSMANN met this brief impressively at Solopharm in St Petersburg.

Location: St Petersburg, Russia  Client: Solopharm

ASSPECTS PORTFOLIO PROJECT SOLOPHARM

Moscow glamour

Tsar Alexander III had the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ built in the centre of St Petersburg in 1883 in honour of his father. With its beautiful mosaics, the sacred building references Saint Basil’s Cathedral on Red Square in Moscow.

Learn more about the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ at: www.saint-petersburg.com

Active on the Russian market since 2010, the workforce of the pharmaceutical company Solopharm has grown rapidly over a short period of time. In order to provide all staff members with functioning workplaces in the existing office building, ASSMANN developed a fit out concept that makes efficient use of the available space. For the team members in the open-plan office area, private and quiet workspaces were created with desktop divider panels and counter elements.

Plant arrangements also contribute to a comfortable working atmosphere and chime in perfectly with the system solutions selected by ASSMANN. This design concept was also applied to the meeting rooms: the circular table systems actively promote internal communication and the clamps hidden beneath the tables contribute to effective cable management. In this way, the space that is available is used efficiently and the actual workspace is given both a visual and a functional upgrade.

ASSPECTS PORTFOLIO PROJECT SOLOPHARM

1 The Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in St Petersburg was built between 1883 and 1921
2 The meeting room is equipped with Canvaro tables
3 Symps desks are available to the staff in the open-plan area

ASSPECTS PORTFOLIO PROJECT SOLOPHARM

ASSPECTS
After visiting thirteen towns and cities in five countries, the ASSMANN T2 has arrived back in Melle. However, although the van travelled more than 20,000 kilometres, this is by no means its last journey. There are many more portfolio projects that are worth a visit. Before long, it will once again be time to say, “Fill her up, please!”
Cubas

Room dividing storage system

Mobile units

Customisable shape and colour