



PBF Fassadentechnik GmbH

HiCAD for geometrically demanding facades

“The requirements placed on Metal and Facade Engineering become ever more stringent. Facades should be facelifted without tenants having to move. Demands on aesthetics, housing technology, compliance with standards insulation values, energy and sustainability issues or topics such as burglary or fire protection become ever more demanding, too, and require comprehensive consulting”, explains Roman Rutz, managing director since 2006 of PBF Fassadentechnik GmbH founded in 1995. “Thus, working on smart, efficient and carefully considered facade concepts which include comprehensive planning is our aim. For this, we are always up to speed in innovations, new technology and products – for instance with HiCAD.” The CAD software by Dortmund’s ISD

Group is mainly used for execution planning where geometrically demanding facades are involved. Via License Server VPN, the CAD software is used from different locations.

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REFERENCE REPORT



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Roman Rutz, managing director, PBF Fassadentechnik GmbH

When Roman Rutz was taking over PBF Fassadentechnik GmbH in 2010 and with it the leadership of 5 employees, he immediately entered 3-D planning with two HiCAD licences. “I had the first contact with ISD Group at Swissbau Fair in Basel, then at a training in Solothurn”, he says. How evident a 2-D/3-D consistent CAD planning is can be obtained with the Swiss company’s wide range of tasks: These include double-skin facades, mullion-transom facades, element facades, structurally glazed systems and ventilated facades with concrete, glass and metal. The company, which is located in Abtwil near St. Gallen, rounds off its scope of services with fire doors, fire glazing, stairways of all kinds, railings, canopies and steel constructions for windows, winder gardens, glazings, entrances, doors and gates.

Complete Sheet Metal processing facilitates complex projects

“We work with very varied projects, which limits opportu-

nities for automation” Roman Rutz claims. “Our customers have various demands for layouts, BOM as well as engine data. However, in almost all areas of the manufacturing industry complex bent sheet metal parts can be found, which are processed in one piece. In our daily work with Metal Engineering Premium, we particularly appreciate - besides the clear structure of tools with expandable Standard Part catalogue as well as the lossless data exchange via DXF and STEP Interfaces - the Sheet Metal workflow. It is no secret: With HiCAD, flanges can be quickly attached or detached, edges subsequently modified, subtractions or moulding tools such as beading or embossing can be quickly mounted with individually expandable catalogues. “With HiCAD’s bending simulation the complete drawing is unfolded automatically for a facilitating processing. Geometry, dimensions and identifications can be refreshed immediately after changes of already processed sheets and its related

Image: © PBF Fassadentechnik GmbH; Marxer Active Energy Building, Vaduz/ LI





Image: © PBF Fassadentechnik GmbH; Marxer Active Energy Building, Vaduz/ LI

processing are marked invalid – a great advantage for complex projects such as the Marxer”, he explains.

Mentioning the futuristic Active Energy Building in Liechtenstein, which accommodated its first tenants in February 2018, puts a smile on the face of the person in charge for CAD. The Vaduzer Volksblatt, Gazette in Vaduz, refers to this prime example of sustainable construction in different ways: “A building as living organism”, “a mixture of cruise liner and space station”, or simply “power plant”. “For construction projects such complex as the Marxer, a close cooperation between architects and engineers with flexible computer-aided design is indispensable. Modifications have to be conveniently feasible at that time”, the business owner states. “The entire planning of the Marxer was based on 3-D BIM drawing, which means that HiCAD simplified the exchange with our architects due to its 2-d/3-D consistency: the first process blanks of given parts were prepared with an external 2-D program and by means of these, the 3-D

drawing was created with HiCAD. The measurement in 3-D could be overtaken easily by architects.” The 2-D/3-D consistency of HiCAD allows easy takeover of profile geometries for the employer and his team. “The Voronoi steel construction, the moulding for precast columns as well as the freely designed shading elements of the textile facade were readily supplied to an automated production process.”

Effective communication with ISD Group

“After six months we implemented HiCAD entirely and integrated it in our day-to-day work successfully”, Roman Rutz says. The profitability became admittedly visible after two years. “It was important to achieve our aims: Lesser planning errors, greater efficiency and the option to work at one project with several employees”, the managing director explains. Also the cooperation with ISD Group always functioned well, both the training measures and current communication.” Thus it is wit-



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hout reason that the certified metal engineer is currently interested in employing a designer who is familiar with HiCAD. “Whoever wants to reassemble in the field of CAD”, he concludes, “should consider carefully his or her demands and targets beforehand and exchange with professional HiCAD users.”

In brief:

- > PBF Fassadentechnik GmbH
- > Industry: Metal and Steel Engineering, Facade Constructions
- > Software: AutoCAD, HiCAD
- > Services: Facades, Doors, Stairways, Railings, Steel Constructions, New Developments, Submissions, Consulting, Expertise
- > Number of Employees: 10
- > www.pbf.ch



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