



Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG

Well packaged and efficiently interfaced - with 3D CAD and digitized project management

Packaging influences consumer behavior and must meet numerous criteria to ensure that its contents sell well. Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG contributes to making this work with its special machines. Managing director Ferdinand Wächter laid the foundation for production in 1975. Since then, the 200-man company from Bad Wünnenberg, Germany, has been steadily growing with new halls, an expanded range of services and an ever-increasing customer base.

The logo for Wächter, featuring the word "WÄCHTER" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a small red 3D cube icon. The logo is centered within a large white circle that overlaps a blue geometric mountain-like shape at the bottom of the page.

WÄCHTER 

REFERENCE REPORT

Equipped for 35 years with HiCAD and drawing management

“Drawn on the board, managed in books - a method that is now quite outdated,” states Robert Förster, Chief Designer at Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG, when asked about the initial situation before the introduction of such powerful software solutions as HiCAD and HELiOS. “Until 1987, the design and detailing of special machines for the packaging of various consumer and industrial goods was still done on the drawing board,” explains the mechanical engineer. “Bills of materials were created manually, data were entered laboriously in drawing books provided for that purpose.”

His employer then went on a targeted search for a CAD provider that ideally also supplied a database for drawing and article master management. “In special machine building, processes are usually the same, but never the machines and the products to be processed. The retrieval of parts and assemblies is done via classes and should be as easy to implement as possible,” says Robert Förster, who has never regretted the decision for the ISD Group’s software solutions.

The traditional German company from Bad Wünneberg initially started with three licenses of HiCAD 200/VGA-2D along with a database for drawing and article master management to optimize its workflows. “When we tested various CAD systems, the drawings created with HiCAD convinced us the most. In addition, HiCAD already had

a database component for integrated management of non-geometric product properties,” explains the CAD-responsible project manager. The changeover to a new state-of-the-art system required an introduction process lasting several months, with a complete redesign of the workstations at Wächter Packautomation GmbH und Co. KG, but according to the project manager, it went off to complete satisfaction.

Further growth with increasing challenges

The dynamics of innovation do not stop at packaging solutions, which are becoming increasingly complex and demand a great deal from the designer in the development process: Speed while meeting high quality demands and efficiency due to increased cost pressure. Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG has adapted accordingly and expanded its software modules over the years: In addition to the current Steel Engineering module and other HiCAD components for 3D CAD, PDM tools - such as HELiOS Engineer and HELiOS Viewer - are also used. HELiOS was derived from the HiCAD database component in 1996 and has been further developed ever since to make access to product data easier for everyone involved.

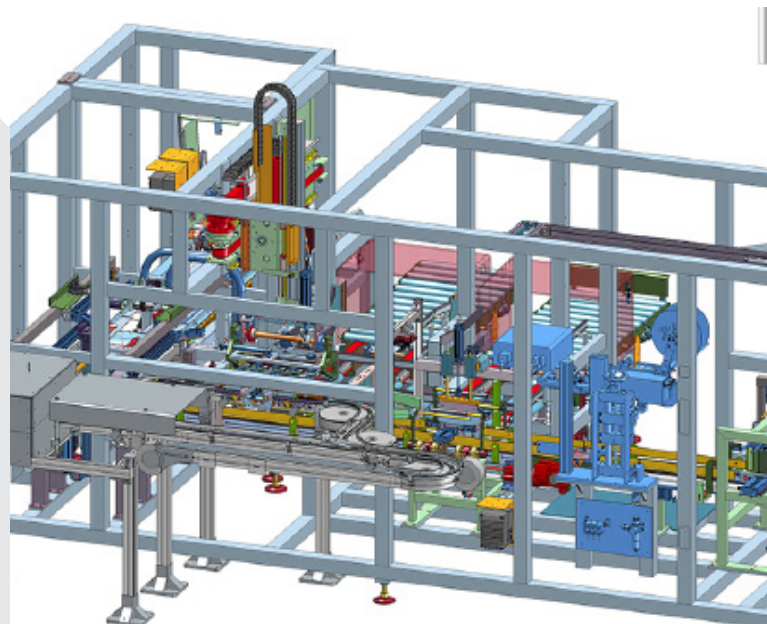
HELiOS and HiCAD in practice

Robert Förster uses HiCAD for the entire design process - from the preparation of quotations to the output of documentation. He also uses the CAD solution at different locations via VPN. The 2D/3D associativity of

“In the end, HiCAD and HELiOS convinced me with intuitive processes that were not disturbed by specific program peculiarities and restrictions. The combination of both solutions is excellent. We save an enormous amount of time.”

Robert Förster, CAD-responsible Project Manager at Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG

Image: © Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG



the software gives him the freedom to flexibly add 3D objects to the 2D building constructions in the layout plan, or to further model existing drawings that were processed by subcontractors in 2D.

Numerous functions help him to modify and detail in a targeted manner: "Sheet metal functions, derivation functions, automatic itemization and the convenient generation of different views," he lists as examples. With HELiOS, article master data, bills of materials and other information are stored centrally and protected against unauthorized use by means of access authorizations. "Without a PDM system, we would not be able to implement our highly networked way of working with other engineers. In addition, the sorting options of a PDM system allow me to search for identical parts in a much more targeted manner," explains the project manager.

ERP interface

The number of repetitive activities, redundant articles and information has been significantly reduced at Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG - also due to the interface to an ERP system. Since 2016, bills of materials generated in the PDM system have been transferred to the ERP system APplus via the workflow step 'Released'. "A huge step forward," says Robert Förster enthusiastically. "We are happy that we were able to seamlessly interface our ERP system with HELiOS.

The data is automatically synchronized. This saves time and reduces errors caused by different versions that would otherwise still be in circulation, and prevents data loss due to incorrect forwarding between departments."

Process safety through efficient cooperation

The cooperation with the ISD contributed to the fact that the successive introduction of individual CAD modules at Wächter Packautomatik GmbH und Co. KG always took place to complete satisfaction. "We have never been ignored," says Robert Förster. "Requests have been received and always immediately examined for feasibility." In addition to higher productivity and a better folder structure, he emphasizes the greater process safety he has achieved with HiCAD and HELiOS. "A special machine that we designed with HiCAD is currently packing power sockets in trays set up vertically - a successful result of CAD modules that combine well with each other, special programming, and macros that can be used to automate frequently recurring work steps."

He recommends that companies that want to reposition themselves in the area of CAD and PDM carry out comparisons with realistic data. "You can then see very quickly whether the central tasks, and not just the "sideshows", can be processed accurately and reliably. In the end, HiCAD and HELiOS convinced me with intuitive processes that were not disturbed by specific

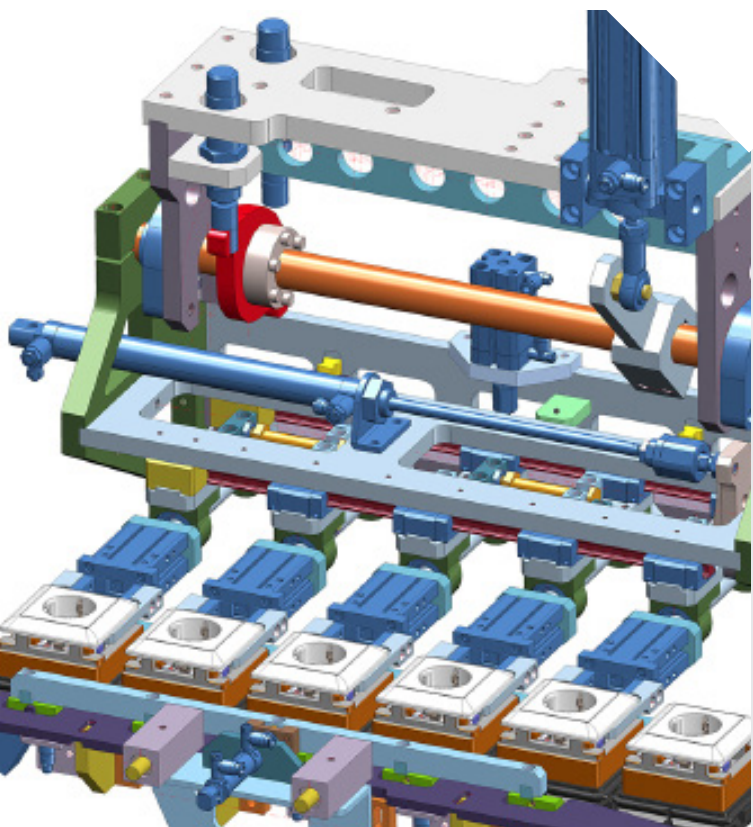


Image: © Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG

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*Robert Förster, CAD-responsible Project Manager
at Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG*

program peculiarities and restrictions. The combination of both solutions is excellent. We save an enormous amount of time.” Further equipment of workstations with the HELIOS Viewer is planned - as well as an interface to EPlan.

Brief company profile:

- > Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG
- > Industry: Special machines, conveyor technology
- > Software: HiCAD, HELIOS, APplus
- > Packaging solutions for various industries, customer service, training
- > www.waechter-packautomatik.de

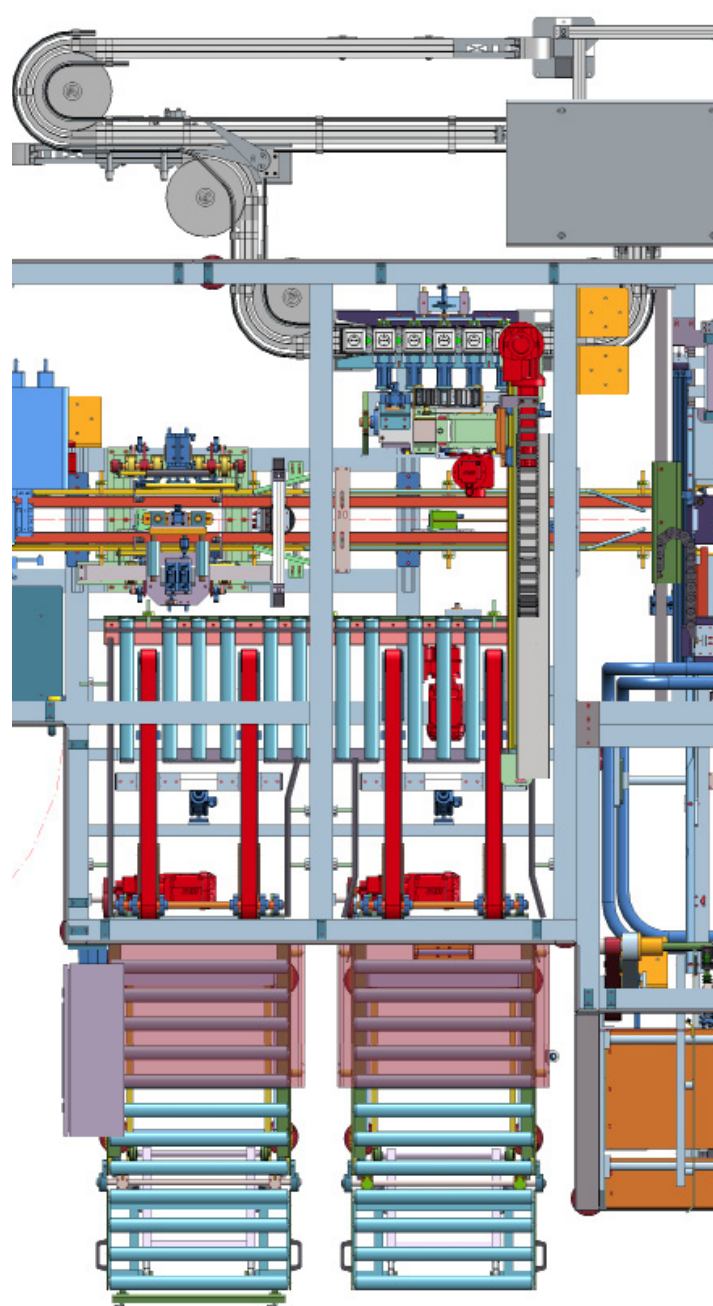


Image: © Wächter Packautomatik GmbH & Co. KG



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