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FORSTER 

# aktuell

The magazine for customers, staff and friends of the Forster Group



**Forster: message bearer  
for 50 years ...** page 4

## THE CHAIRMAN'S VOICE

Dear Friend,  
Dear Staff Member,

You may have noticed it immediately: the new issue of "Forster aktuell" looks different from its predecessors. After ten years of publishing our company magazine we have decided to give it a face lift. But we didn't just wish to spruce it up for the eye – we wanted a more profiled content as well.

Our wide-ranging portfolio of products, from traffic engineering to signs, shelves and advertising systems – it is all there and can be found at a glance; the new arrangement excellently reflects the ever greater multiplicity of our products.

But good communication is not just about facts and figures. Our broad "Inside News" section gets you straight to the heart of our company, to the women and men working for our enterprise.

In 2006, Forster celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At our last Christmas party we looked back on our history that now spans five decades – from a local scythe-smithy to an international corporation. The new "Forster aktuell" provides broad coverage of the route taken by us, from an overview of our company's history to the athletic achievements of our Forster leisure club.

Have fun reading the latest news!



Christian Forster  
Chairman of the Managing Board, Forster AG

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## SHELVING SYSTEMS

## Forster puts colour into grey offices

There's no law stating that shelves must be grey. Painted in all the colours of the rainbow or perhaps showing off your favourite motif, they still have all the functionalities expected of shelves – but working with them is much more fun!

We digitally imprint the customer's chosen design on the end panels of the shelving runs. Durable, light-resistant and long-lived. Whether impressive landscapes, extraordinary architectural landmarks or fascinating works of art – there are no limits to your imagination – nor to the size of the print!



Durable and light-resistant. Put some colour into your office life!



## TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

## ◆ Certified quality

**The number one priority for Forster is quality, a fact that is well-known among its customers and that has recently been confirmed in black and white! In November 2006, Forster was awarded the certificates of conformity for its prism- and LED-type variable traffic signs, certifying that Forster systems meet all traffic requirements specified in EN 12966-1:2005.**

## Trade shows in 2007

**Astrad** ◆ the special exhibition to cover equipment and technology for road operation and winter maintenance, held at Wels on 18–19 April 2007, is an absolute must in Forster's show calendar.

**Tunnel Congress** ◆ the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Traffic and Safety in Road Tunnels discussed new developments to improve safety in tunnels. Held in Hamburg, the conference offered a pivotal platform for an exchange of experiences in tunnelling. On 25–27 April, Forster presented a selection of its products from its traffic engineering line at booth 32 of the expert exhibition.



Astrad: At booth 72 in hall 17, Forster displayed products of its noise barrier and traffic engineering ranges.

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MESSAGE BEARER FOR 50 YEARS

# From scythe-smithy to i corporation

**An iron mill that had once manufactured scythes in 1956 became the birth place of a new metalworking company known as “Franz Forster Metallwarenerzeugung”. Originally producing embossed signs, the firm worked out of the Hammergeasse site at Waidhofen. Since then, Forster has grown to employ more than 750 staff at a number of locations in Austria and abroad. But its headquarters has remained where its roots are: at Waidhofen/Ybbs, a town in Lower Austria.**

In 1956, Franz Forster laid the founding stone for what has become the Forster Group. Fifty years later, at the Forster Christmas party of 2006, the management and employees looked back at their company’s history. And the narrative made it clear to everyone present: their success wasn’t due to chance; from the very start, the enterprise specialised in comprehensive overall solutions characterised by innovative details.

**From hand-crafted products to variable message signs** ..... The embossed signs were quickly supplemented by traffic signs, still painted by hand in the early 1960s, later foiled and screen-printed. Fastening clips and frame sections for installing the traffic signs were soon added to Forster’s product range. By his continuing drive to develop new products and improve existing ones, Ing. Franz Forster put his stamp on the market. The



The Forster Group built its headquarters (above) at its current site in Waidhofen/Ybbs in 1981.

Signs past and present. Regardless of the tide of change, Forster is always in the vanguard of technology.

❖ The last of the famed scythes from Waidhofen was forged on this hammer in 1954. Donated by Forster, the hammer is now on display next to the Hospital Church.

# nternational

momentum provided by him is still impacting on traffic safety in Austria. Already in the early 1970s the company delivered the first overhead signposts for roadside installation, and over the next years the first variable prismatic message signs left the Forster workshops.

**Forster fosters variability** ❖❖❖ The production of signs gave rise to screen-printing, which opened up

new opportunities in production, design and quality. From there it was just a small step to producing labels, company signs and posters. The firm started to specialise in screen-printing and quickly added a graphics and screen-printing department as well as a photographic laboratory of its own. Soon it began to use synthetic materials for processing and coating. The first displays and P.O.S. racks were turned out. The company's own

toolshop provided the moulds for vacuum forming. Forster's structural steel department was similarly expanded, to produce annular and forming tube structures. In order to achieve better coverage of the Austrian market, Forster opened a sales office in Vienna, and then, one year later, another one in Salzburg.

**Spreading out to Oberland and St. Peter** ❖❖❖ 20 years after the firm had taken its first steps into the



St. Peter/Au,  
location of  
Foster Metallbau,  
was founded  
in 1977.



❖ market, it opened a second production venue at Oberland/Gafrenz that employed 30 staff. One year later, in 1977, Ing. Franz Forster acquired an operation at St. Peter/Au for the purpose of manufacturing noise barriers. The new Works III was assigned parts of the metalworking department. From then on, Forster operated out of three locations, employing already over 200 staff in 1978. This investment in the future provided the founding stone for Forster Metallbau, a subsidiary set up in 1985. The multisectoral performance for which the company became known was also appreciated by the government: the

Federal Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Industry bestowed upon Ing. Franz Forster GesmbH the right to use the Austrian coat-of-arms.

In 1977, Ing. Franz Forster (r.) was awarded the right to use the Austrian coat-of-arms for Forster products.



**On to new markets** ❖ Working out of his position as head of exports, Dkfm. Günther Graßl launched a major export drive in 1979, and exports are still a core business of the company. Its office at Hammergasse finally lost the battle for space to accommodate all this new business, and moved into an airy new building at the edge of Waidhofen. After another extension, fully 12,000 square metres of space were available to house the



Forster Group headquarters at Waidhofen/Ybbs. Its extension in 2002 provided Forster with a key prerequisite for securing and steadily expanding its market position.



In 1973, Forster opened a sales office in Vienna (l.), followed by another one in Salzburg (r.) a year later.

ongoing flow of ever more products, including, to name just one example, signs for in- and outdoor use. Constant innovation and ambitious business targets kept the three locations busy and propelled Forster forward over the next years. The introduction of library shelving systems was a smash hit for the company. In its business year 1980/81, Forster's sales for the first time exceeded the ATS 200 million threshold.

**Successful subsidiaries** ..... Already back in the early 1960s, Forster was a well-established supplier of metal products. In 1963, the company

began to produce drawers and desk frames for Bene, an important office furniture brand, and is proud to say that this business relationship is still going strong! Back then, Forster also acquired its first experience with shelving systems, as a supplier of shelves and uprights. By the mid-1980s, it intensified its production of shelving systems, starting out with library shelves and following up its success with the introduction of its FOREG 2000 system for storage, archiving and office use. Similarly, Forster strengthened its noise barriers and vendor parts programmes. Expansion continued with the formation of

Forster Metallbau GesmbH, which made for further additions to its Works III at St. Peter/Au. In its first year, the subsidiary already boasted a staff of 80. Shelving systems and noise barriers continue to be two of the mainstays of the Forster Group, the other being traffic engineering and advertising media.

#### **Logistics and quality management**

..... In Waidhofen/Ybbs is where it all began in 1956, and Forster continues its progress actively interwoven with life in the statutory town in Lower Austria. In 2002, Forster added another extension. After less than one year of construction, ❖



Entrance to the company headquarters at Waidhofen/Ybbs, flanked by the two ancient linden trees which are protected as a natural heritage site.

❖ Verkehrs- und Werbetechnik GmbH was given substantially more space, and the industrial engineering department moved from Oberland to Waidhofen/Ybbs, into a 4,000 square metre production and assembly shed for mechanical manufacturing, surface treatment and assembly of metal structures that is the core of the new annexe which also accommodates some

1,000 square metres of office space directly connected to the production areas at all three floors. The space between buildings is fully roofed, thus providing an ideal additional place for assembly and storage. The new truck garages are fitted with a car wash and office-cum-lounge. The large extension is a key prerequisite for Forster's drive to continuously and steadily expand its market position.

Successful quality management is another of the factors for the company's success. Already in 1995, Forster was awarded the ISO-9001 certificate.

works, it similarly quadrupled to 21,000 square metres since 1978. In addition to the production plants in Austria and Germany, Forster has set up a number of marketing companies in Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Poland. From the small firm of 1956, Forster has grown into a group that employs 750 people in Austria and abroad. 🇫🇮



In 2006, Ing. Christian Forster takes a walk through 50 years of his company's history.

**The fruits of success** ❖ A few figures to document the strength to which Forster has grown over the past 50 years: production space at the Waidhofen/Ybbs works almost quadrupled to 31,000 square metres since 1981. At the St. Peter/Au



The Supervisory Board members of Forster AG, Ing. Franz Forster (5<sup>th</sup> from left), Erika Forster (4<sup>th</sup> from left), Dr. Walter Platzer (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Mag. Günther Fischer (4<sup>th</sup> from right), with the Managing Board members of Forster AG and the Managing Directors of the Austrian Forster companies.



Managing board of Forster AG (from left to right): Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger, Ing. Christian Forster, Mag. Doris Wöginger und Ing. Mag. Raimund Hüttenbrenner.



The managing directors of the Austrian Forster companies (from left to right): Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger, Ing. Hans-Peter Prüller, Ing. Rudolf Hackl, Ing. Mag. Raimund Hüttenbrenner und DI Robert Reichartzeder.

In 2003, the company restructured its top executive level. After 46 years at the top, Ing. Franz Forster, founder of the firm and chairman of the board of the holding company, retired from its operative business.

#### **Forster AG**

The founding father of the company joined the supervisory board of Forster AG, where he took over as chairman from Erika Forster, who continues to be a member of the supervisory board. Since then, Ing. Christian Forster has been serving as the chairman of the managing board of Forster AG and is responsible for the strategic management of the group. Adding to the existing members of the managing board, Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger and Ing. Mag. Raimund Hüttenbrenner, Mag. Doris Wöginger were appointed to the board. In view of the change in his sphere of responsibilities, Ing. Christian Forster retired from his position as CEO of the operative companies in Austria. He was succeeded by newly appointed managing directors.

#### **Forster Metallbau GmbH**

Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger has been managing director of Forster Metall-

## ❖ WHO'S WHO AT FORSTER

bau since 1992. He is in charge of the noise barriers department as well as technology and production at St. Peter/Au. As the second managing director, Ing. Rudolf Hackl is head of shelving systems and vendor parts. They are supported by Ing. Mag. Raimund Hüttenbrenner on the commercial side, and, since January 2007 by DI Robert Reichartzeder.

#### **Forster Verkehrs- und Werbetechnik GmbH**

At the Waidhofen/Ybbs plant, commercial matters at the managing director's level have been the responsibility of Mag. Raimund Hüttenbrenner since 2003. Hans-Peter Prüller was also appointed managing director, in charge of the marketing and engineering departments.

#### **Forster Industrietechnik GmbH**

DI Robert Reichartzeder rose to become managing director for product development, toolmaking and assembly. He also provides support on the engineering side to the managing directors heading the other companies. Ing. Mag. Raimund Hüttenbrenner was put in charge of commercial affairs of the industrial engineering department.

# Forster international

A European company that runs production plants in Austria and Germany, as well as marketing companies in Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Poland, Forster AG has made itself a name for a large range of innovative products.

Forster can draw on numerous marketing partners to ensure that it is close to its customers in many European countries, and it has established excellent business relationships with countries in the Near and Far East.



Richard Ryan,  
Managing Director



Fritz Sörgel,  
Head of Branch Office

**Arbitec-Forster GmbH**, founded in 1989 and resident at Neuss, is a leading provider of shelving systems in Germany.



Siegfried Colberg,  
Managing Director



Located at Peine, **Colberg & Forster GmbH** supplies the German market with traffic engineering products, signs and noise barriers.

**Forster Ecospace Limited**, founded in 1994 and domiciled in Oxfordshire in the south of England, markets our shelving systems in the United Kingdom.



Yves Evariste,  
Managing Director



Markus Späth,  
Managing Director



**Samodef-Forster Sarl**, domiciled in Paris, has been selling our shelving systems in France since 2007.

Founded in Switzerland in September 2000, **Forster Archiv- und Verkehrstechnik GmbH** is situated at Oetwil am See. At the same time, a sales office was set up at Yverdon in Western Switzerland.



Zenon Mazurek,  
Managing Director

In the autumn of 2004, Forster acquired a majority stake in **Wako-Forster Spółka z o.o.** of Bielsko-Biała, which sells shelving systems in Poland.

ING. FRIEDRICH FAHRNBERGER

# Four decades with Forster: from holiday intern to board member

**Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger, member of the Managing Board of Forster AG and Managing Director of Forster Metallbau GmbH, celebrated 40 years with Forster in 2006.**

In 1964, Friedrich Fahrnberger got his first sniff of Forster's company air when he took on a holiday job there. Already back then, he gained a reputation for his bright ideas and flexibility. Two years later, he returned to take up a fixed employment with the company.

**Technical all-rounder** ..... He quickly became indispensable for his know-how in all production steps and technical matters. His particular strength is knowing how to get the best use out of and optimise the means of production. Many in-house developments are inseparably associated with him, and several components of Forster's large range of products bear his handwriting.

**Good ideas and the pleasure of realising them** ..... Whether it was the launch of traffic sign production or the start of screen-printing or the development of shelving systems – Ing. Fahrnberger was crucially involved in all of them. But it was not just in his technical capacity that he put his stamp on the company: ideas for additions and conversions quite frequently originated with him. A particularly large and exciting project was handled by him in the early 1980s, when, starting out with a small group that gradually grew to almost two dozen members, he supplied traffic signs

for all of Baghdad, capital of Iraq.

**Managing Director and member of the Board** ..... Superbly competent, an authority on technology combined with exemplary commitment have made the man a force among business partners and staff members alike. Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger became Managing Director of Forster Metallbau in 1992 and was promoted to the Managing Board of Forster AG in 2000.



## SHIELD-BEARER

A symbol gives body to the idea behind an object

With his Shield-Bearer, Alois Leopold Lindenbauer, artist from Upper Austria, caught the identity of the Forster enterprise. Size, form and material combine the static properties, as used by Forster in its products such as noise barriers or traffic signs, with the dynamics and flexibility of a modern firm. The soft warm timber of the poplar symbolises the friendliness expended on communication in-house and with the customers.

The original, 70 x 80 x 240 cm in size, was completed in 1983 and has since been harboured at the Forster headquarters. For some time now, the figurine has been produced in miniature size and bestowed upon long-serving staff members, public personalities and friends who have served the company well. At the occasion of his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Forster, the Shield-Bearer was conferred upon Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger.



# Customised print solutions for indoors and out

**Whether metal, acrylic or timber base – almost anything goes thanks to Forster's investment in the latest digital printing technology.**

In addition to the inexpensive four-colour printing process, Forster has now started to offer direct printing on flexible and rigid materials, at standard dimensions of up to 2.5 m in width and 5 m in length.

**The reality of ideas** ..... Good advertising is driven by the interplay between exciting ideas and perfect realisation. The latest technologies allow Forster to put into effect almost every creative idea – not just images, but also graphic designs, logos and texts which can all be displayed at a high resolution. We take all special requests, such as gold, metallic or fluorescent colours, in our stride, thanks to our screen-printing processes. The multiplicity of print options available to Forster makes us your ideal partner for exhibitions and events,

company presentations, shows and theme parks – wherever individual solutions are called for.

## **Customised all-round solutions**

..... Depending on requirements, our products are for in- and outdoor use, both short- and long-term. As an authorised 3M-Scotchprint manufacturer, Forster Werbetechnik has a large range of materials at its disposal all of which guarantee top quality and high durability. Many years of experience in screen and digital printing, high precision in cutting, punching and coating, and the extensive programme of our metal-working department that includes all manners of substructures and fixing materials, warrant customised solutions for your advertising schemes.



Large or small, in or out of doors, image, writing or logo: Forster prints get your message across.



#### Perfect presentation all around

Whether canvass, containers, graphics for trucks, cars or public transport, and whether conventional PVC sheeting or special reflective film: we turn your fleet into moving advertising machines that draw attention all around. Posters, stretch posters, pennants, banners, illuminated signs and architectural signs are all part of our standard product range for outdoor advertising. By combining products with our flexible fastening systems and frames, Forster is your best partner for building signs, construction site billboards, company and advertising signs. 

#### NEW P.O.S. DISPLAY FOR ETERNIT

## Sophisticated design – professionally executed

**Eternit, a long-established maker of top-quality roof tiles located in Upper Austria, has got itself new P.O.S. displays, produced in co-operation with Forster.**

The display was developed by Kiska, a leading European designer that employs some 80 staff to create solutions through integrated design development methods for a number of national and international clients. In contracting with the Environmental Design competence centre run by Kiska to develop P.O.S. systems, shop systems and fair booths, Eternit chose a proven expert in order to three-dimensionally visualise its brand at the point of sale. In the course of overhauling its corporate communication, Eternit had opted for Kiska already in 2006.

**Perfect design** The new P.O.S. displays were developed in response to the findings of an in-depth analysis carried out with dealers. As indicated by the target group, designers chose a muted architectural approach. The new display is marked by its combination of stability and delicacy of design. The central, bracket-shaped element is sufficiently robust to provide stability for the cantilevered display arms. The whole unit allows flexibility in the arrangement of tiles.

**Perfect execution** Actual production was carried out in close collaboration with Forster. After defining the surfaces and materials to be used, the two companies joined forces to produce a prototype and develop it for commercial viability. Stephan Briele, head of Kiska's Environmental Design, is highly satisfied with the co-operation process with Forster: "In Forster we found an experienced and reliable partner for making metal displays. Thanks to our professional and successful co-operation we are already envisaging further joint projects." 



Developed by Kiska, built by Forster: the new P.O.S. displays for Eternit.



NEW SIGN SYSTEM: COMBIFLEX MENE0

## Directional system wi

**Forster has introduced new components for its flexible sign system Combiflex Meneo. The highly popular door signs are now supplemented by signposts of the characteristic arched shape for guidance and information systems..**

The new addition to our Combiflex family allows our customers to get a harmoniously uniform appearance for all their building sign requirements. From door signs to directional signs – there are virtually no limits to the application of our system. To further enhance their directional effect, individual colour guidance schemes are available for the signs.

### **Customised designs and colours**

Combiflex Meneo directional signs will cover all your requirements. Wall-mounted or flag-type signs, whether arched horizontally (from left to right) or vertically (from top to bottom), as well as double- or four-faced suspended signs with vertical arching: they meet all the criteria required by a functional directional and information system. The combination of frames in RAL 9006 (white aluminium), side covers in RAL 7047





The arched shape ensures optimal readability.


## With an aesthetic bonus

(telegrey 4) and mounts in RAL 9006 (white aluminium) ensures smooth integration in the colour scheme chosen for the door signs of Combiflex Meneo. Other RAL colours are available on request.

**Easy to install** ..... Combiflex Meneo door signs are characterised by how easily they can be exchanged: simply squeeze the protective film and paper strip. With formats in DIN dimensions, there is no need to cut the paper strips to size. Although directional signs tend to be for long-term use, they can nevertheless be quickly replaced: simply remove the aluminium side cover. Whether stick-on text, digital prints, screen prints or paper inserts – Combiflex Meneo directional signs accommodate almost any type of labelling. Up to a size of 841 x 420 mm, a protective and support sheet is optionally available to protect the sign against

adverse weather. Combiflex Meneo door and directional signs can be mounted with a few quick and easy work steps.

### A perfect match for outdoor use

..... Arched monument signs are the perfect addition to Combiflex Meneo to obtain a harmoniously matching overall appearance of your signage, all done in Combiflex Meneo. Thanks to their superior quality and long life, our monument signs ideally meet the criteria of a directional system for outdoor use. Two basic types (an internal central column or two flanking uprights) are available in nine standard sizes. The enormous variety of combinations obtained from the design makes it easy to exactly tailor our signs to your requirements. 




### CONSPICUOUS SIGNS POINTING TO THE LOWER AUSTRIAN EXHIBITION

## Milestones of advertising

**This year's exhibition organised by the Lower Austrian State has taken on fire and earth. Forster monument signs pointing seven metres into the sky signal the journey to the elements.**

Between 28 April and 4 November, Waidhofen/Ybbs is under the sway of fire, while St. Peter/Au is a dominion of the earth. Fortunately, neither place is being hit by a conflagration or earthquake, but they are under the ascendancy of the Lower Austrian state exhibition, an annual event that is popular far beyond the borders of the state.

**A token by Forster** ..... Already at the start of the year, the exhibition's organisers put up a strong signal to be seen from far and wide: striking monument signs rising seven metres into the sky. Altogether nine such signs marked with the fire and earth design were installed throughout the region – four around Waidhofen/Ybbs, two at St. Peter/Au and three at key regional traffic nodes.

**Reusable** ..... The monument signs were produced by Forster Verkehrs- und Werbetechnik GmbH. Next to their considerable advertising effect, they meet a second requirement requested by the client: the top-quality 3M film can be peeled off, thus ensuring that each of the monument signs can be recycled once the exhibition has closed its doors. 

FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

## Serious science safely stored

**The scientific focus of the collections maintained by the University of Berlin is on languages and literature. Its new library building was completed in August 2005, naturally with shelving systems made by Arbitec-Forster GmbH.**



The five-storey building, designed by architects Foster & Partners, is enveloped by a free-standing enclosure made of aluminium segments, ventilation elements and double-glazed panes.

The five-storey building, designed by architects Foster & Partners, is enclosed in a free-standing bubble made of aluminium segments, ventilation elements and double-glazed panes.

Finding solutions to the problems of structural shortcomings, inadequate space and outmoded technical installations was a major challenge in rehabilitating the old building. Star architect Norman Foster enveloped it with his idea of a spherical space that reminds visitors of the human brain. The project has certainly met with great critical acclaim.

### Books in focus

Fully 800,000 books accommodated on 6,300 square metres: impressive figures indeed. The chief library user space was arranged around the centre of the four storeys, translating into practice

the idea of placing book knowledge in the middle of the building in analogy to the convolutions of the human brain. The storage space runs to 26,000 metres, sufficient to place the collections of eleven institute and seminar libraries on Forster shelves. The open-access area was fitted with FOREG 2000 shelving with integrated lighting on all five storeys, blending in nicely with the architectural surrounding. The shelf fronts are quietly elegant, without perforation, emphasising the harmony of the overall appearance. Specially designed labels are integrated in the shelving runs, exactly as conceived by the architect. Features are the "book-eye stations" allowing students to scan books. Several shelves on the ground floor were fitted with glass doors to offer a display space for extraordinary books. 





FORSTER SHELVING AT THE RUSSIAN STATE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE OF ST. PETERSBURG

# Clearing house and repository for great history

**The name of St. Petersburg is invariably connected with the famous Hermitage museum. Yet the city with the illustrious history also harbours one of the most precious and voluminous archives in Europe, the Russian State Historical Archive.**


The Archive holds more than 6.5 million files spanning the history of Russia from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, papal bulls from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, a draft primer personally signed by Peter the Great, edicts by the Russian tsars, the regulations of the Holy College and many more exhibits of unique historical importance. Their material value is incalculable: thus each of the 24 volumes of the heraldic rolls of the Russian Empire is insured for US\$ 4.2 million.

**Living archive** ..... Archives are not only depositories of history but also venues of science and research. The Archive operates a scientific and information library holding more

than 420,000 books and many rare manuscripts, and a documents microphotography and restoration laboratory. In 1993, it was accepted into the state cultural heritage list, a distinction of great merit.

**Foster quality prevails** ..... A logical arrangement is the backbone for any good library. Seven archiving storeys and the library, housed in altogether 84 air-conditioned rooms, thus were to be equipped with new shelving. According to the Archive managers, the decision in favour of Forster was very carefully deliberated, since it involved not just an extremely difficult technical challenge but also a project of great prestige for Russia. A thorough analysis of the professional advice obtained was based on a study of projects in other countries, especially in Austria, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. The contract went to Forster due to the high level of our customers' satisfaction with our quality, design and innovative capacity. Forster's

international experience and our staff's comprehensive know-how guarantee competence from the first contact to the finished project – a line of reasoning that convinced our clients in St. Petersburg.

**Impressive figures** ..... The rails were put in between December 2004 and April 2005; the shelves took another six months to install. The figures involved in the task taken on by Forster were awe-inspiring: the storage rooms were given more than 230 kilometres of storage space in the form of FOREG 2000 shelves. Their maximum efficiency ensures well-rounded and orderly operation. In December 2005, the new archive was ceremonially opened and visited by President Vladimir Putin. 

Left: Aleksandr Sokolov, Director of the Russian State Historical Archive (left in the foreground), shows the new rooms and shelving to President Vladimir Putin.

Right: the seven archive storeys were fitted with mobile units and more than 230,000 metres of shelving.



A good directional system helps preclude panic after an accident. Maximum security is obtained by swivel signs and angular signs that can be readily read.

#### PRODUCT INNOVATION

## Functionality and more

**It goes without saying that Forster noise barriers meet all the relevant standards. But its latest product innovations for emergency route signs and barrier caps add another dimension to security.**

#### Emergency route signs

### Follow directions

A good directional system is of the essence to guide people, panicky or shocked after an accident, out of the danger zone. The new angular and flag-type signs greatly help to increase road user safety.


The angular signs posted along noise barriers are optimally visible due to their special shape. Distances given to the next escape door can be shown in line with the applicable standard. The film-covered aluminium sign is extremely stable, simple to install and available in a range of sizes.

Along a noise barrier, escape doors need to be especially marked for recognition. The new flag-type signs made by Forster can be swivelled. If loaded (e.g. with snow from snow-clearance vehicles) the sign swivels away and then returns to its original position, thus ensuring that the escape door will always be properly marked out. The newly developed flag-type signs are available in two designs, for noise barriers of more and less than

2.50 m in height. They are mounted without any drilling, simply by clamp-on connections. The stable, hot-galvanised steel frame can be labelled on both sides and is sold in several sizes.

#### Caps

### Weight is no problem

The steel uprights holding the noise barriers in place are topped by a multiple-folded aluminium sheet. It is specially designed to easily withstand even enormous loads such as may occur from snow clearance, yet is still extremely simple to install. The steel uprights with their 80 mm caps provide a harmonious appearance. The caps come in natural or powder-coated aluminium, offering users a choice of quiet elegance or customised colour scheme. 

The caps for the steel uprights are incredibly robust, easily withstanding even extreme loads.






The new technology to digitally imprint noise barriers opens up unfathomed opportunities for decoration without in any way detracting from the noise-absorbing properties of the barrier.

## DESIGN

# Noise barriers as eye pleasers


Imprinted noise barriers, another of the many innovations created by Forster, open up many interesting opportunities. The new methods applies images, designs and symbols directly onto the barrier elements. Whether integrating

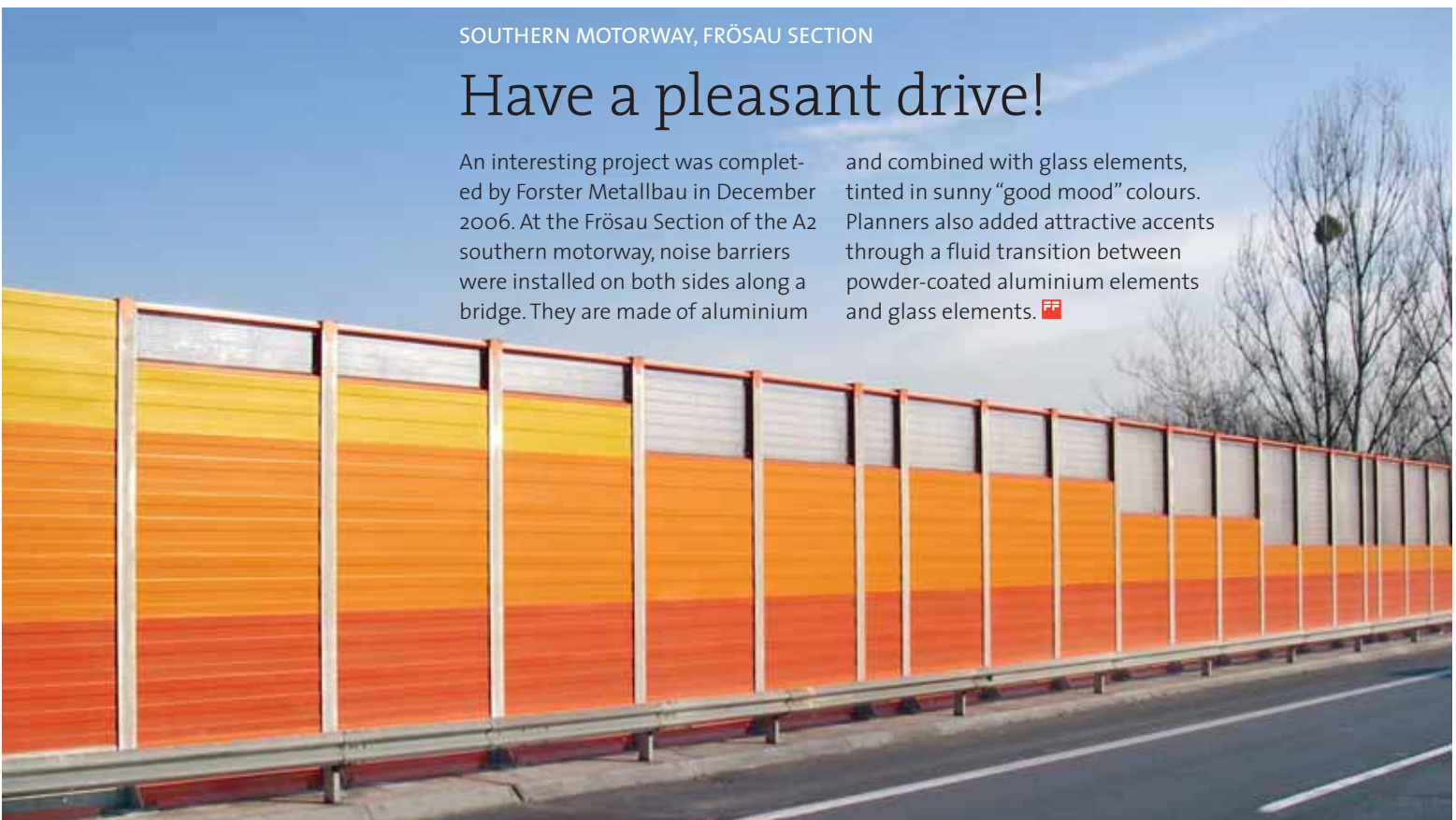
the barrier in its landscape setting, using it for advertising or offering it as a canvass for art – noise barriers are elements for creative design, while certainly meeting all the standards and technological regulations. 

## SOUTHERN MOTORWAY, FRÖSAU SECTION

### Have a pleasant drive!

An interesting project was completed by Forster Metallbau in December 2006. At the Frösau Section of the A2 southern motorway, noise barriers were installed on both sides along a bridge. They are made of aluminium

and combined with glass elements, tinted in sunny “good mood” colours. Planners also added attractive accents through a fluid transition between powder-coated aluminium elements and glass elements. 





Under ASFINAG rules, rest stops are marked same as service stations.

## New guideline for motorway signs and signposts

**As high-speed roads, motorways require clear and efficient directional sign systems. Published on 1 September 2006, the guidelines governing directional sign systems RVS 05.02.13 were updated to meet modern criteria.**




Dr. Martin Vergeiner, head of the working group on "Traffic Signs and Directional Signs" organised by Österreichische Forschungsgesellschaft Straße-Schiene-Verkehr.

Headed by Dr. Martin Vergeiner, the working group on "Traffic Signs and Directional Signs" had as its brief ways and means to substantially improve the informative content and early recognition of directional signs. Early warning signs and overhead signs that account for the trend for three-lane motorways and constantly rising truck traffic flow are to improve driver orientation and increase road safety. The ensuing new guidelines were published on 1 September 2006 and became binding in December. Essentially, they maintain the existing system of motorway signs but with some clear improvements that incorporate modern traffic information.

### Key changes effected by RVS 05.02.13:

- ❖ In order to optimise drivers' night vision, types were specified for traffic sign films: film type 2 for signs posted at the roadside and film type 3 (i.e. microprismatic film) for overhead signs.
- ❖ To improve readability, fixed spacings are defined between lettering elements and to the edge of the sign. The dimension of a sign is thus determined by the number and length of the destination information lines, type size and mandatory spacing. As a result, sign sizes will have to be increased, which in turn impacts on the sign support, which needs to be adequately dimensioned in order to withstand the structural stress, and the

fixing (such as latticed uprights).

- ❖ Another vital novelty is the greater use of overhead structures to improve early recognition by the drivers. Consequently, the first exit sign of a motorway exit must be an overhead design, as must be the 1000 m exit indicator on three-lane motorways. On motorway intersections, all directional signs must be placed overhead.
- ❖ Signs announcing service stations, rest stops, car parks and breakdown bays have been brought up to date.
- ❖ Signs signalling rest stops are identical to those used for service stations, as stipulated by ASFINAG; car parks must be announced by large-scale signs already 1000 m in advance. Breakdown bays are indicated by a sign newly introduced in the Highway Code. 

# Road section control system SBA A73 Nuremberg South

**In June 2006, the new road section control system went on stream on the A73 motorway at Nuremberg South. It is designed to avoid accidents and harmonise the traffic flow. Forster Verkehrs- und Werbetechnik completed the contract exactly on time.**

Along a section of little more than 12 km between the Feucht junction and the point where the A73 terminates into the road network of the City of Nuremberg (Franconia Carriageway) next to the eastern port facilities, eight junctions are lined up in a dense sequence of access and exit roads reminiscent of urban motorways.

**Data highway right on the motorway** ..... The road section control system comprises 17 display units and 20 flow metering units. The latter register flow density and velocity separately for passenger cars and trucks, through radar sensors fitted to the gantries or induction loops placed in the road surface. The data supplied by the sensors are processed in 18 roadside section units, from where the signalling units are controlled.

**Unrestricted maintenance** ..... Fully 17 gantries were set up for the road section control system. The hot-galvanised and coated gantries

are of the single-beam type. In order to enable unrestricted maintenance of the variable message signs without consideration of the traffic situation, the gantries were fitted with walk-on beams and railings.

#### Variable LED message signs

..... Two types of variable message signs are used: type A for lane-only indications and type B/C for cross-lane indications. Both types are fitted with light emitting diodes (LEDs).

**Plug and (dis)play** ..... The indicators are basically LED board segments that are simply plugged into a matrix, so that no tools are necessary for installing and removing them. The pc boards are fitted onto a panel for attachment and precise alignment of the lens and sleeve system.

**Low electricity consumption to extend system life** ..... The LED units were tested by the Federal Roadworks Institute in accordance



No tools are needed to install and remove the pc boards.

with DIN EN 12966. To extend their life, the red and yellow LEDs operate at 35%, and the white ones at 50% of the rated current. Additional display texts of type C are of the user-programmable variable message type. The LEDs are combined in logic groups ("LED chains") for control. 📺

Variable message signs of the LED type signal speed limits and warn against dangerous road conditions.



## FORSTER INSIDE

The many events organised for Forster's staff have always been held in the spirit of companionship and the pleasure of being together. These two pages are a trip down memory lane.



❖ Ing. Christian Forster, Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger, Erika Forster, Ing. Gustav Marchard †, Ing. Franz Forster, Richard Peirl †, Dkfm. Günther Graßl (left to right).



❖ In 1986, the Forster family drinks to the new northern annexe at Waidhofen/Ybbs.



↑ Victory ceremony at the 1999 Forster race: Ernst Pichler, Erwin Warlischek, Friedrich Fahrnberger (left to right).



❖ A popular pastime on the Forsteralm pasture since the 1980s: the Forster ski races. In 1999, Rudolf Hackl, Alois Kerschbaumer and August Schnabler warm up their outer and inner selves before rushing downhill.

❖ Ing. Franz Forster in his office at Hammergasse.



↑ Johann Freudenschuss celebrating his 15th anniversary with Forster in 1983.



❖ As always, the Christmas party in 2005 was a welcome occasion to leave aside work and get together for a chinwag and plenty of laughter.

❖ Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger (left) and Horst Lettner † (right) working in Baghdad in the early 1980s.



❖ The biking day combines athletic challenge with a comfy get-together – in 1990 as in every year.



Already in the 1960s, Erwin Warlischek (right) kept a critical eye on signmakers.



In the 1970s, the company trips were a must-do among staff.



Erika Forster presenting (in 1981) the eagerly contested cups to the fastest skiers among big and small contestants.



Anton Freuden-schuß celebrating his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Forster.



Like many other events, retirement is celebrated with a great party. This one in 1996 was for August Schnabler (right) and Ing. Gustav Marchard (left).



Dkfm. Günther Graßl puts his best foot forward emceeing the Christmas party.



Ing. Friedrich Fahrnberger says farewell to retiree Ing. Heinz Scholz (right) in 2001.



In 1986, Ing. Franz Forster congratulates his first employee, Norbert Setnicka, on his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the company.



Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel, then Minister of Economic Affairs, visited Forster in 1996 and came away greatly impressed with the company's performance.



Numerous guests from politics and business took up our invitation for a product presentation in 2002 on the opening of our extension at Waidhofen/ Ybbs. Provincial Councillor Mag. Wolfgang Sobotka, Ing. Christian Forster, Governor Dr. Erwin Pröll, Mayor Mag. Wolfgang Mair and Ing. Franz Forster at the opening (left to right).



# Congratulations!

## ❖ WEDDINGS

### Waidhofen/Ybbs:

Franz Schachinger, Helga Sonnleitner (née Schnabler), Fikreta Kaukovic-Basic (née Basic), Evelyn Auer (née Infanger), Mario Fellner (née Schwarz), Johann Kerschbaumer, Monika Gaßner (née Hofmacher), Jürgen Maierhofer

### Büro Salzburg:

Angelika Ott (née Pritz)

### St. Peter/Au:

Robert Neunteibl, Doris Hochwallner (née Pillwatsch), Mihaela Lolea (née Kaltenbrunner), Gertrude Ruß (née Zant)

## ❖ BIRTHS

### Waidhofen/Ybbs:

Daughter Jasmina for Helga Sonnleitner

Son Tom for Martin Weiss

Son Julian for Christian Almberger

Son Matthias for Thomas Schreiner

Daughter Marlies for Brigitte Schörghofer

Daughter Laura for Thomas Sommer

Daughter Leonie for Martin Hinterholzer

Daughter Aischa for Allma Rasiti

Son Alexander for Thomas Spacil

Son Gabriel for Andreas Kaltenbrunner

Daughter Leonie for Elisabeth Hirner

Daughter Yaren for Erkan Koc

Daughter Laura for Elke Tatzreiter

Daughter Melanie for Christia Rehak

Son Sebastian for Robert Hauß

Son Hasan for Edin Omerbasic

Son Kilian for Jürgen Maierhofer

Son Gabriel for Martina Grill

Daughter Nadine for Hannes and Margit Haselsteiner

Son Nico for Cornelia Gravogel

### Büro Salzburg:

Son Tobias for Michael Mairoll

Daughter Elisa Katherina for Emmerich Stangl

### St. Peter/Au:

Son Nico for Cornelia Losbichler  
Daughter Lea for Doris and Manuel Reikersdorfer

Son Tim for Krisztian Staritzbüchler  
Daughter Rohzerin Simone for Haydar Türkmen

Daughter Liselotte for Franz Wagner

Daughter Mia Noemi for Doris Krendl

Son David for Mihaela Kaltenbrunner

Son Andreas for Ingrid Detter

Daughter Ilayda for Gülhan Bakan  
Son Jonas for Eva-Maria Holzer and Martin Sindhuber

Daughter Mersida for Suad Kalbic

Daughter Sina Maria for Walter Trawetzky

Daughter Leonie for Simone Wieser and Gerald Prinz

Son Raphael for Ingomar Aripek

### Colberg&Forster:

Daughter Charlotte Sophie for Dirk Kramer

## ❖ VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

*Michaela Ertelthaler* (industrial merchant) passed the apprenticeship examination with excellent success.

*Alexander Pichler* (industrial production engineer), *Daniel Hummelsberger* (screen printer) and *Manuel Werner* (screen printer) each passed their apprenticeship examination with good success.

*Paul Aigner* (industrial merchant), *Bojan Glavas* (industrial production engineer) and *Markus Raidl* (industrial production engineer) each passed their apprenticeship examination.

*Sabrina Matzenberger* (industrial merchant) and *Michaela Merkingner* (screen printer) passed the first and second form, respectively, of the vocational school, each with excellent success.

*Patrick Freudenschuss* (industrial production engineer) passed the

first and second form; *Haris Basic* (screen printer) passed the first form, and *Artan Suhodolli* (screen printer) passed the third form, each with good success.

## ❖ ANNIVERSARIES

### Waidhofen/Ybbs:

#### 35 YEARS

Alois Kerschbaumer

#### 25 YEARS

Klaus Scheuchel

Karl Pöstinger

Leopold Seisenbacher

Johann Klement

Andreas Moro

Petra Jägersberger

Werner Rudel

Silvia Ressler

Hermann Kaltenbrunner

Regina Hofer

#### 20 YEARS

Gabi Schindelbacher-Schmolzmüller

Stefan Reiter

Engelbert Hochstrasser

Werner Pachler

Elvira Ritzinger

#### 15 YEARS

Manfred Hofmacher

Amel Vincevic

Werner Bachbauer

Maria Maier-Vielhaber

Robert Pilz

Josef Pitner

Regina Plank

Karl Haberfehlner

#### 10 YEARS

Andreas Reitbauer

Hannes Haselsteiner

Sabine Hochpöchler

Jian-Ahmed Mudaffer

Roswitha Bußlehner

Leopold Koch

Johann Stockinger

Johannes Oberaigner

Andreas Forster

Irfan Calisir

Gertraud Tatzreiter

Reinhard Wagner

Elisabeth Helm

Helene Taibon

Thomas Schreiner

Ernst Schelmbauer

Ernst Asanger

Dzemil Tutkur

**St. Peter/Au:****40 YEARS**

Friedrich Fahrnberger

**35 YEARS**

Johann Riegler

**25 YEARS**

Alois Geiblinger

Johann Kaineder

**20 YEARS**

Hermann Tatzreiter

Alois Wieser

**15 YEARS**

Roman Dallhammer

Karoline Mayrhofer

Stefan Mayrhofer

Herbert Eibisberger

Manfred Kalkhofer

Franz Resch

Günther Knoll

Monika Sakula

Thomas Öhlinger

Ermin Sovtic

**10 YEARS**

Brigitte Baumgartner

Markus Buder

Renate Hofer

Edith Ennsmann

Rosemarie Wiesinger

Heidelinde Franz

Tiberiu Gal

Josef Leitner

Mihaela Lolea

Maria Pfaffeneder

Adolf Schäffer

Franz Schaumdögl

**... RETIREMENT****Waidhofen/Ybbs:**

Helene Taibon

Stefan Tatzreiter

Radomir Tomic

Dorothea Forster

**St. Peter/Au:**

Christine Schmidthaler

Margarete Garstenauer

Herta Schwarz

Sahbaz Dubocanin

Erna Jechsmayr

Erich Schäffer

Eva Oppolzer



DI Robert Reichartzeder

**More executive power**

As of January 2007, **DI Robert Reichartzeder** has been reinforcing the executive side of Forster Metallbau GmbH. In addition to his previous responsibilities as the managing director of Forster Industrietechnik, Mr. Reichartzeder has been put in charge of the technical side of Forster Metallbau and distribution of its noise barrier products.



Klaus Weis

**Prokura for Klaus Weis**

**Klaus Weis** has been working for Forster Metallbau since 1989. In 1996 he was made works directors at St. Peter/Au. By the end of 2006, Klaus Weis was granted the Prokura (full power of attorney) and made managing director, so that he is now responsible for operations, staff and quality assurance at St. Peter/Au.



Johann Riegler

**35 years with Forster**

In 2006, **Johann Riegler** celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Forster. In 1971 he had started out at the Hammeggasse plant as a lacquerer. In 1978 he transferred to St. Peter/Au, where he continued his vocation by working as shift foreman in the powder-coating department.



Ing. Alois Kerschbaumer

After working for Forster since 1971, **Ing. Alois Kerschbaumer** is one of the company's most experienced sales and marketing staff. Starting out as an in-house salesman, he later focused on screen-printing when the company started to expand into that sector. Upon incorporation of the display department he was promoted head of the advertising engineering department. In 2002, he was made a Prokura holder.

**Retirement after 31 years with the company**

**Dorothea Forster** retired in November 2006. She had started out as a bookkeeper in 1975. Over the course of the years, her responsibilities included not just accounts payable but also auditing of Forster Metallbau GmbH. The management and colleagues wish her all the best and much pleasure with the newly won leisure time.



Dorothea Forster served the company for more than 30 years.

# Sports and leisure



A team to be proud of!



The Forster biking tour: for once toiling for their fitness rather than their customers.

## New talent for Austria's football team?

**Austria's national team would do its coach Josef Hickersberger proud if it managed to emulate the season's score achieved by Forster footballers.**

**Getting the most out of indoor games** ..... At the indoor football championship held at Waidhofen/Ybbs in February 2006 Forster's eleven reached the quarter final from among 16 teams. At the 8<sup>th</sup> International Artificial Lawn Cup on 2 September 2005, the Forster band placed a proud third out of altogether nine teams.

**Raring to go on the lawn** ..... Forster did particularly well at the football cup organised by the Lower Austrian Chamber of Labour in 2005/06. After scoring 11:1 in the first round against Busatis Purgstall, the second round was won by Forster in a penalty shootout against Welser. The third round went to Forster through a 1:0 win against Möller Schrems; and it was only in the fourth round that the Forster boys were brought to a stop,

with a clear 1:4 score against F&G Traisen. In the end, Forster placed a good fifth. In the next year's Chamber of Labour cup, in the 2006/07 season, Forster played a successful game against Volksbank Amstetten (5:1), but was beaten by the strong Mondri team (3:6). In the senior cup of 2006/07, the Forster team placed second in the preliminary round.

## Forster staff toiling

**... On 16 September 2006, but, for once, for their own rather than their customers' pleasure.**

Continuing a long tradition, Forster's tenth biking day was a well-blended mixture of fun and athletics. Twenty participants faced the rather challenging 40 km route from St. Peter/Au through St. Georgen in der Klaus up the heights of Wieser Höhe and towards Neustift, Briefberg and Ertl. An accompanying service bus proved useful for many a slightly less sportive biker to overcome the mountainous hurdles. The cider and perry served in the tavern at Schwingenschlögl certainly helped to get them back (more or less) on their legs.

## Our Putz Family comes off with all the honours

**... Other than the TV family promoting a furniture store, our Putzes caught all the big ones at the FCF's traditional club fishing party.**

Fourteen fishers, grouped in two age categories, set out to get the heaviest fish of Laziland on their hooks, with the total weight of the catch deciding the issue. The number one winners were the fish themselves, as they were tenderly returned to their element after weighing. The competition and victory ceremony were followed up by an afternoon's fishermen's parley at the Lazelsberger inn.

### Young group results:

1. Phillip Putz	1.0 kg
Julia Knoll	1.0 kg
3. Dominik Streißlberger	0.8 kg

### Adult group results:

1. Bernhard Putz	12.5 kg
2. Martin Streißlberger	11.5 kg
3. Helmut Putz	5.5 kg



The Forster skiing team (left to right): Raimund Hüttenbrenner, Manfred Kalkhofer, Thomas Spacil, Josef Großauer, Fritz Auer and Manfred Hofmacher.

## We are skiing vice champions

**At the company championship, the Forster team carried the day against 21 out of 22 teams.**

A pair of solid skis and a good snow cover – nothing more was needed by Raimund Hüttenbrenner, Manfred Hofmacher, Thomas Spacil and Patrick Maier to place first at the state company skiing championship. Raimund Hüttenbrenner even clocked the best day's result. But that wasn't the end of the season for the state champions. On 3 March, the Forster team battled it out in schuss teams for the title of Austrian company champion, and came out second. Now all the attention focuses on the European company winter games at the Gastein valley in 2008.

## Bull's eye

**Hitting the mark is a long-established tradition with Forster, especially when it comes to target shooting, a hobby for the entire family.**

From the first event in 1999, the Forster target shooting company championship at the Seitenstetten riflemen's club house has been steadily gaining in popularity. Eagerly looked forward to among many staff members at St. Peter/Au, the competition is also winning ever more fans among staff at the Waidhofen Works I. The youth category did particularly well, ringing up superb scores in the champion marksmen's league. Altogether 66 participants shot it out for good placings.

### Children:

1. Roland Brandstetter
2. Philipp Kloibhofer

### Youth:

1. Andreas Henickl
2. Jürgen Tatzreiter
3. Stefanie Henickl

### Women:

1. Christine Brandstetter
2. Birgit Knoll
3. Ernestine Tatzreiter

### Men:

1. Mathias Weis
2. Jürgen Gratzner
3. Midhat Hodzic

### Senior women:

1. Christa Schiefer
2. Elisabeth Witzlinger
3. Angela Kloibhofer

### Senior men:

1. Josef Dorfmair
2. Ignaz Donner
3. Adolf Schäffer

### Champion marksman's competition:

Standing off-hand:

1. Suad Kalbic
2. Thomas Domani
3. Stefan Gutmandlberger

Standing supported:

1. Jürgen Tatzreiter
2. Andreas Henickl
3. Manuela Schiefer



Two champion marksmen: Jürgen Tatzreiter (right), winner of 2005, congratulates his successor, Suad Kalbic.



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