

UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2005

Company: Bernegger Bau GmbH

Location: Molln, Germany

The Pfaffenboden Project

Economic Award of Excellence & Award for Operational Best Practice





Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats
Europäischer Gesteinsverband
European Aggregates Association

UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2005

The headquarters of the Bernegger Bau GmbH is located near Molln in Upper Austria in the region of a National Park. It was founded by Barbara and Karl Bernegger in the year 1947 and developed into one of the major employers in the region. Currently more than 420 persons are employed in the areas of quarrying and processing of minerals, in building construction, civil engineering and industrial construction as well as in the production of high quality building materials for the construction sector. Around 400.000 tonnes of limestone are annually converted in Molln into high quality products from grinding mills and machines which are used by the technical and chemical industry as well as by the fertiliser and animal feed producers and for the technical environment equipment. Facing the end of extraction at the Gaisberg site in a few years time, the company realized its vision for ensuring a sustainable supply of raw materials for its processing facilities and for retaining the Molln location. It constructed a 3,5 km and 15% gradient tunnel in order to develop a new site, shaped as a 16,4 ha wide funnel. The extraction area enables the reduction of environmental impact and is only visible from a few external points. To reduce further environmental effects, the pre-crushed limestone is transported by a conveyer belt system instead of by truck. This innovative project secured the supply of resources, employment opportunities for the next three generations and the recultivation of the Gaisberg site. The 'Pfaffenboden' extraction area successfully brought together economic, social and environmental interests.