



UPGRADES TO A HIGHER PERFORMANCE CLASS WITH THE LATEST CUTTING TECHNOLOGY

Modernization at Grossschädl Stahl with Messer Cutting Systems

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Grossschädl Stahl in Graz has relied on innovation and precision in flame cutting for many years. With the aim of expanding production capacity and ensuring long-term efficiency, the company opted for a strategic modernization of its machinery. The collaboration with Messer Cutting Systems proved to be a crucial factor in this success.

True to its motto, "Steel is our passion," Grossschädl Stahl in Graz has been committed to innovation and precision in flame cutting for over 75 years. Continuous modernization and the ongoing development of its production facilities are key to the success of this long-established family business, making Grossschädl Stahl a reliable partner when it comes to meeting the highest standards. The impetus for the latest modernization project arose from the need to replace an aging plasma cutting system. Furthermore, production capacities were reaching their limits, and processes needed to be optimized. For this traditional family business, it was clear that this wasn't simply a matter of replacing equipment, but rather a step into the future.

Markus Starchl, Sales Flame Cutting and co-decision-maker at Grossschädl Stahl, describes the initial situation: "The replacement of an old plasma cutting system was indeed the reason for starting the project. But we faced the challenge of further accelerating production processes, expanding manufacturing capacities, integrating modern technologies and making optimal use of the available space in the production hall."





It became clear early on that modernization should not only close technical gaps but also create measurable added value. This included optimizing warehouse logistics and improving table positioning. "We didn't just want to replace things, but to become sustainably better," Starchl summarizes.

Decision with a focus on reliability

An investment of this magnitude demands a reliable partner, both technologically and in terms of customer support. A good price-performance ratio, high-quality service from the supplier, and ease of use of the cutting machines were key selection criteria. "Reliability in service was a central decision criterion for us," explains Claudia Kronheim, Managing Partner at Grosschädl Stahl. "Messer Cutting Systems was able to fully meet these requirements." She emphasizes the strategic importance of the project: "We're not just investing in technology. We're investing in future viability, reliability, and the success of our customers."

That Messer Cutting Systems was able to assume this role is due in no small part to the long-standing collaboration. Since 2012, the Graz-based company has relied on Messer technology – a trust that has been repeatedly confirmed. The first OmniMat system was so convincing that every new Messer machine to date has replaced a competitor's system. "We also inquired with other well-known suppliers. But Messer had the best offer," explains Starchl. "The first OmniMat convinced us. Every additional machine was a logical step."

Perfectly coordinated: From planning to commissioning

Project management on the Messer Cutting Systems side was handled by Gerhard Wimmer, Head of Messer Cutting Systems Austria. All project steps and interfaces were coordinated in close collaboration to ensure a smooth installation. "The trust Grosschädl Stahl places in us is the result of years of cooperation and consistent service quality," emphasizes Wimmer.

"The collaboration was seamless and flexible. Thanks to the perfect coordination prior to installation, the machine was able to be put into operation quickly," says Starchl. Kronheim also confirms: "We greatly appreciated the professionalism of the process."



Technology with clear advantages

Grosschädl Stahl opted for a MultiTherm cutting machine with two plasma heads. The decisive factor was the compelling overall package: "Technically, all suppliers are on a similar level, but Messer's complete package, including both product and service, convinced us," explains Starchl.

When replacing the old system with a new plasma cutting machine, the existing infrastructure was intelligently reused – a crucial step towards cost optimization. Relocating and realigning the existing track was a key project step. In addition, the existing extraction table was converted from manual to CNC-controlled flap operation. This increases process reliability, improves extraction management, and thus makes a significant contribution to efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Unified technology for more efficient operation

Today, four cutting systems are in operation at Grosschädl Stahl: one OmniMat oxyfuel cutting machine, two ELEMENT machines each with four ALFA torches, and the new MultiTherm with two HiFocus 280neo power sources. Standardization is paying off – in operation, maintenance, and reliability.

Downtime is virtually a thing of the past, and repairs are less frequent. The new technology is also durable, resource-efficient, and economical to operate. Kronheim sums it up: "The conversion to the new technology was more cost-effective, quick to implement, and noticeably reduces our environmental impact."

Optimized production processes

Significant progress is also evident in the manufacturing process, and workflows have noticeably improved. "We have shorter lead times and can respond even faster to customer requirements," says Starchl. "We now have four identical power sources. This significantly simplifies operation and maintenance."

The result is higher productivity, reliable planning, and thus a sustainably strengthened market position. Starchl concludes: "I would make the same decision again. Vertical oxyfuel and plasma cutting are our core competencies. Messer Cutting Systems is a reliable partner and provides the right solutions."





Growth with a future

Future expansion will require an increase in production space. "Building an additional hall isn't easy due to our location in Graz, but it's not impossible," explains Starchl.

The company is also focusing on processing thick sheets up to 400 mm thick and weighing up to 24 tons. With this capability, the company plans to further expand its manufacturing expertise and open up new market opportunities.

"We see Messer Cutting Systems as a long-term partner who will support us in our technological development," emphasizes Kronheim.



PRESS RELEASE

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Images 1 and 2: The employees of the two shifts in the cutting department are also enthusiastic about Messer technology.

PREPRESS RELEASE

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Image 3: The new MultiTherm with 2x HiFocus 280ineo.

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Image 4: Two ELEMENT machines, each with 4 ALFA oxyfuel torches on a track.

PRESS
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Image 5: The OmniMat with 8 oxyfuel torches.



NUMBER OF CHARACTERS: 6.469

EXTRA FILE ATTACHMENTS: -

CONTACT

Gudrun Schul

Marketing

Mail gudrun.schul@messer-cutting.com

Tel. +49 (0) 6078 787-0

WHAT WE STAND FOR

CREATING SOLUTIONS BEYOND MACHINES

Messer Cutting Systems is a global supplier of cutting-edge technology for the metalworking industry. With almost 1.000 employees worldwide in over 50 countries, we maintain a constant dialogue with our customers to achieve sustainable user-oriented innovation.

Our portfolio embraces the themes PRODUCT, DIGITAL, SERVICES, AUTOMATION and KNOW-HOW. We will live up to our claim "Creating Solutions Beyond Machines" not just with the most modern cutting systems and solutions for oxyfuel technology.

Appropriate services and training, our own software applications as well as the integration of solutions from our technology partners, e. g. in the field of automation, complete the machine to give forward looking total solutions.

Our Know-how combined with our customer-oriented attitude and actions make us the world-wide partner of choice for innovative total solutions on all aspects of cutting systems for over 125 years.

Grosschädl Stahl GmbH: Steel is our passion

Grosschädl Stahl GmbH, based in Graz, is a third-generation family-run business. The company motto, "Steel is our passion," reflects the company's core philosophy.

For many years, flame cutting has been one of the company's core competencies. Sixteen oxyfuel torches, four plasma torches, and four laser systems ensure high-performance and reliable production. Sheet thicknesses from 3 to 260 mm are processed, as well as heavy plates up to 12 x 3 meters. An in-house shot blasting system for sheet metal expands the range of services, complemented by just-in-time deliveries using the company's own fleet of vehicles. Grosschädl Stahl is proudly known as "Austria's fastest flame cutting operation."

