

110 YEARS
OF PIONEERING
WOOD WOOL
INNOVATION

Lightweight, easy to install and offering exceptional thermal and acoustic performance, our legendary Heraklith Wood Wool boards continue to transform the construction industry – 110 years after they were first patented. Much of that achievement is down to our Simbach plant in Germany which in 2017 celebrated 90 years of pioneering innovation.

When engineer Robert Scherer filed a patent for his new fire-proof, lightweight, porous material in 1908 he had no idea that his invention would transform the building industry.

The patenting of this revolutionary new material not only created a completely new market for Wood Wool but also paved the way for a legacy of pioneering innovation that continues to impress 110 years later.

Today Heraklith is the brand customers turn to when they need a versatile, durable and lightweight Wood Wool product with exceptional thermal and acoustic performance, impeccable sustainability credentials and outstanding fire safety.

Ensuring that this easy-to-install product remains at the forefront of Wood Wool innovation is our Simbach plant in Germany which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2017.

Our colleagues in Simbach have been building on Heraklith's historic legacy backed by generations of customer-focused experience to find new ways to improve Heraklith products and manufacturing processes. The aim has always been to enable clients to meet their increasingly complex challenges whether at a theme park in the Middle East or in a new football stadium in Hungary.

However, it is vital that we push the boundaries of the market we created by constantly meeting customers' needs and exploring the potential of Wood Wool in every possible building scenario. Whether in offices, commercial sites, residential homes or public buildings, Heraklith is an endless journey of innovation.

For instance, we recently introduced a new range of accessories that make it easier than ever to install Heraklith quickly and efficiently as a 'whole solution'. Our list of test performance certification also continues to grow increasingly comprehensive. We have launched a versatile colour range that maintains its colourful good looks even if chipped or dented. We have also developed special plates for room acoustics, multi-layer products for enhanced heat insulation and dozens of new Heraklith applications are being researched.

Unsurprisingly, with such a future focus, we're looking forward to celebrating another 110 years of Heraklith innovation.

KNAUF INSULATION

HOW SIMBACH MADE HISTORY

Millions of square metres of Heraklith boards are installed every year – and that is a testimony to the industrial innovation of our Simbach plant that has been producing the boards for 90 years.

The first buildings to use these boards for walls and ceilings were constructed in 1914 and the application became such a success that the manufacturers outgrew their original factory at Ferndorf in Austria. When a new state-of-the-art facility was opened at Simbach, Germany, in 1927, it was a triumph.

Thanks to Heraklith, building times were slashed because it was easy and fast to install; wall thicknesses could be reduced; its insulation and fire-proof properties were universally praised and it provided a highly durable plaster substrate – attributes that still resonate with customers today.

Heraklith proved so popular that by 1939 annual production had risen tenfold to 10 million square metres.

It was a success story that would continue to grow throughout the 20th century. Europe underwent a significant construction boom in the years following the war and by the 1960s Heraklith was selling 17 million square metres in Germany alone.

A decade later came expansion into north-west Europe, a growing export market to the Americas followed by the newly emerging markets of Eastern Europe which inspired the creation of a new base at Zalaegerszeg, Hungary, in 1989. A plant at Oosterhout in The Netherlands also came on line to cope with demand.

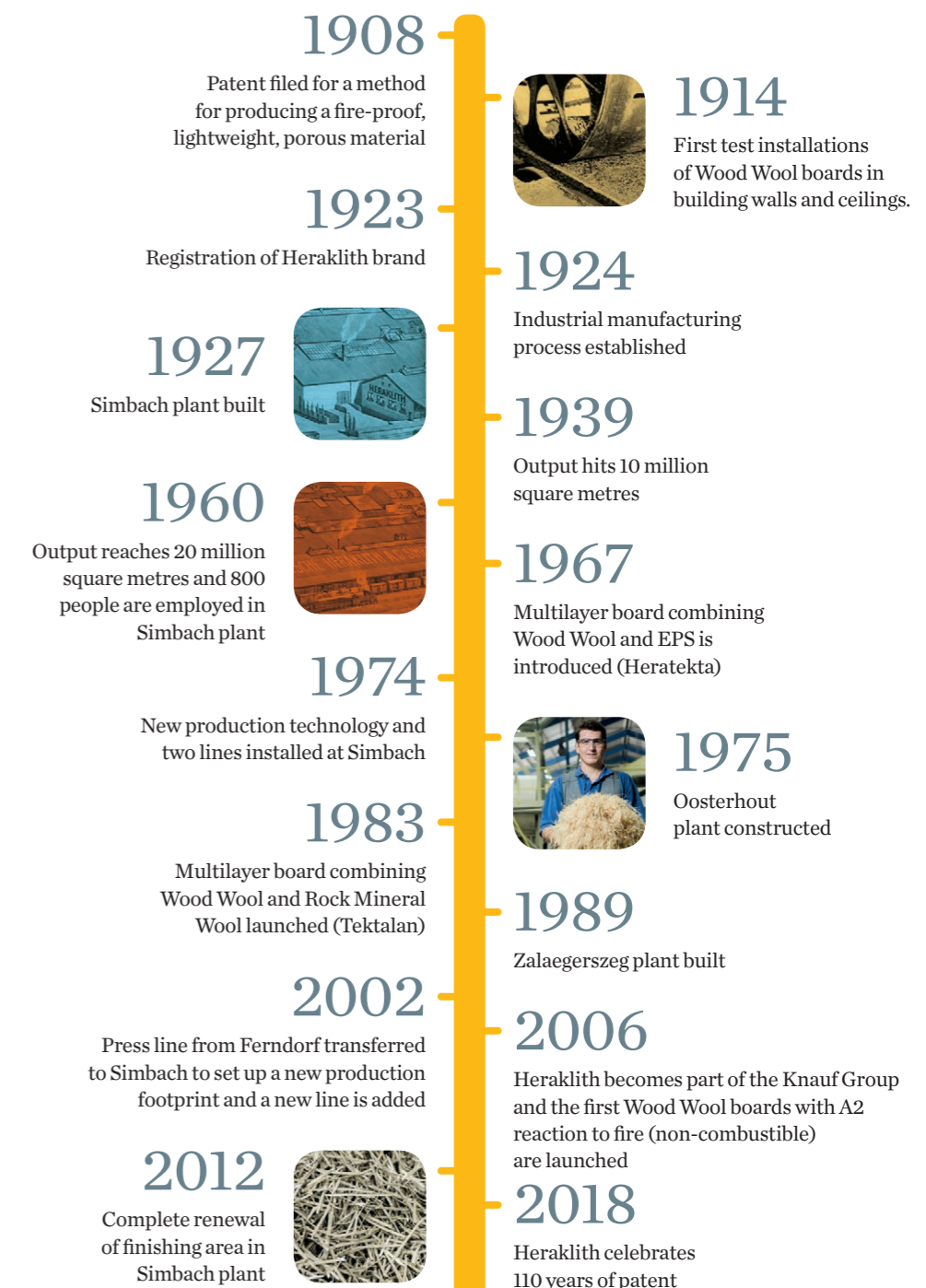
At the heart of such global success our Simbach plant continues to drive innovation, new products and pioneering manufacturing processes.

Wood Wool by Heraklith

Improving wood since 1908

Today Heraklith's influence continues to grow. The brand is becoming increasingly well known in the Middle East, particularly in Dubai and Qatar, thanks to our new dedicated team in the region. Meanwhile, in Nordic countries, Heraklith is boosting its presence through Knauf A/S in Denmark.

In 2017 at Simbach, work started on building a new state-of-the-art administrative centre and, at Oosterhout, the plant has launched the Heraklith Experience Centre. The centre is designed to showcase the potential of our products to project stakeholders and show opportunities to installers and new employees new ways to install Heraklith quickly and effectively.



Naturally inspired

At Heraklith we are committed to pushing the boundaries of sustainability at every level.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

We use wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) which is an internationally renowned labelling scheme recognised by the LEEDv4 Green Building Rating System. We also use wood that has been responsibly cultivated and harvested in line with the European Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Stewardship (PEFC). At Simbach we process 10,000m³ of spruce wood every year.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATIONS

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are available for all our Heraklith products showing their environmental impact based on independently produced Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs). Through this process, every environmental aspect of our products' lives is covered from the sourcing of raw materials, manufacture, transportation and use to ultimate disposal. Our commitment to sustainability is underlined by Blue Angel certification, the world's oldest eco-label.

NOISE ABSORBERS

Heraklith products can contribute considerably to the reduction of noise pollution. They are used extensively in car park and basement ceilings, technical rooms, farming facilities and public buildings. They have excellent acoustic properties, A2 non-combustibility and outstanding fire resistance as a single board or when combined with Mineral Wool.

REUSING RESOURCES

The wood from Simbach multi-layer boards that can no longer be used is removed and used internally — often as protective packaging for transportation. Insulation core elements such as EPS are either returned to the original supply companies for reuse or in the case of Rock Mineral Wool cores, removed and fed back into the production process at our Rock Mineral Wool plants.

Heraklith

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A great deal for Heraklith. In many countries such as Germany or Austria it's almost the default word for Wood Wool. Heraklith comes from combining two words — Herakles (Hercules in German) and lithos (Greek for stone). During his 12 legendary tasks, Hercules built a giant wall from boulders to divert powerful rivers and clean the king's stables, so his name proved to be the ideal inspiration for architectural innovation and stone-strength reliability. Today, Heraklith's brand recognition is stronger than ever.

CASE STORY

FERENCVÁROS FOOTBALL CLUB (FTC), BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

“We were looking for a material that provides good sound absorption, is long-lasting and aesthetically pleasing for the FTC Stadium. Based on our past experience and good feelings about the product we chose Heraklith.”

Burics Oktávian, designer for SAMO, architects of the stadium who worked with contractor Market Építő Zrt

Challenge: The club needed good sound absorption and an aesthetically pleasing solution for its conference areas, technical rooms, leisure spaces and garages. The garage insulation had to be capable of eliminating vehicle noise and offer excellent fire protection.

Solution: For garages a combination of Heraklith Wood Wool and Knauf Insulation Mineral Wool — now available from our plant in Zalaegerszeg as a single product known as Tektalan 037/2 — was the ideal solution offering certified non-combustibility, high fire resistance and the ability to withstand vehicle impact. For the conference areas and other rooms, Heraklith boards fitted easily into tight ceiling applications to offer exceptional acoustic performance and optimal product durability.



WHY DO CUSTOMERS CHOOSE HERAKLITH?

FAST, EASY AND EFFECTIVE INSTALLATION

“If you require a product that can be quickly installed across large surface areas — such as car park, walls and ceilings or public buildings such as student housing — Heraklith really delivers. It is thin, lightweight and available in pre-finished surfaces, and this means a small team can insulate vast areas quickly and easily with minimal effort. We have used Heraklith in many developments, the latest being Stebru a transformation project next to Hollands Spoor rail station in The Hague for 303 student units and 153 starter homes — around 1,400 m² of commercial space and garage. Heraklith never fails.”

Dick van Eck, Raab Karcher Waddinxveen, The Netherlands

OUTSTANDING FIRE RESISTANCE

“Heraklith offers excellent EN1365-2 A2 class fire resistance when combined with Knauf Insulation's Mineral Wool. It provides a protective fire shield that does not melt or produce burning droplets during a fire and that makes it ideal for projects such as car parks or public buildings.”

Dipl.-Ing. Mario Lichy, BIENERGY Energy Management Company mbH, Germany

ALL-ROUND SOLUTION

“Tektalan boards provided an exact fit to obtain highly efficient acoustic performance. Also the fact that Tektalan panels provide thermal insulation and have an A2 fire classification made them the perfect all-round solution for our project.”

Robert Frieden, Kaefer Isoliertechnik, Austria

KNAUF INSULATION