



Bühler opens its CUBIC innovation campus

After a construction period of 20 months and an investment of about CHF50 million (US\$49 million), the Bühler Group officially opened its CUBIC innovation campus in mid-June with eight Application Centers. “We are with this driving forward our strategy of innovation, training, and development,” says Stefan Scheiber, CEO of Bühler Group.

“Together with our customers, partners from industry and science, academia, and start-ups, we are using the CUBIC to conduct research into new and sustainable solutions that we can apply to successful business ventures. And, we are taking a step forward here in providing modern training and development,” he adds.

The global challenges associated with nutrition and mobility are becoming increasingly urgent. How can we sustainably feed and provide mobility for a population of nearly 10 billion in 2050?

Addressing these issues and responding to them with sustainable, commercially attractive solutions is the goal of the innovation campus.

“This is our contribution to transforming the urgent global challenges of our time into solid business solutions together with customers, partners, academia and start-ups,” says Mr Scheiber.

“In this campus, we are also promoting new professional skills and competencies, modern learning and working methods, and collaborating with our partners.”

Every year, the company invests a sum in the three-digit millions in research and development. In 2018, this amounted to CHF145 million (US\$143) or 4.4 percent of turnover.

The three-story CUBIC is designed to accommodate up to 300 people and is, in itself, a model of sustainability and innovation. The building uses 15 percent less energy than comparable structures of its size.

Its smart electrochromic glass facade was coated on equipment from Bühler Leybold Optics. This enables Bühler to slash energy consumption for heating and air-conditioning by as much as 50 percent.

Building sensors measure carbon dioxide levels, air humidity, temperature and flow of people to continuously fine-tune the functionality and energy consumption of the CUBIC.

On the basis of this smart building concept, Bühler expects to be able to sustainably optimise the operation of the building. The CUBIC complies with the sustainability standards of Leed (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design), which certified the structure by awarding it a gold rating.

The bridge that links

In terms of its design concept, the new innovation campus is integrated into the Bühler site in Uzwil as the bridge that links the development, engineering and design teams with the modernised Application Centers and the factory.

This enables the company to develop solutions together with customers, start-ups and industry and research partners up to the point of market maturity with much higher speed and efficiency.

The CUBIC represents “Innovations for a better world” and it focuses on promoting new training and development methods. Among other things, it embraces the dual education system of Switzerland, housing apprentices and academics, as well as youth and experience.

“The CUBIC campus will become the epicenter of our collaborative ecosystem,” says CTO Ian Roberts.

“It embodies our innovation spirit and culture, where we will inspire, discuss, understand and derive actions that will support us as an industry to create more sustainable value chains, while contributing to addressing the burning environmental and societal challenges of our time.”

Shorter time to market

Vital elements of the new innovation campus are its eight modernised Application Centers. The ideas of customers and prototypes will be tested here, where they are refined up to the





point of market maturity.

For example, in the Pasta Application Center the latest pasta is being developed, such as high-protein pasta containing flour from pulses or products with a proportion of microalgae.

The Grain Technology Center, at 3000 square meters, is the world's largest Grain Milling Application Center. It also has its own analytics laboratory. Among other things, the Nutrition Application Center develops textured vegetable proteins –alternatives for the growing number of flexitarians.

Together with customers, the Bakery Innovation Center develops wholesome, fresh bakery products.

In the Chocolate Application Center, new flavors and novel processes for cocoa-based products are tested. In the Coffee Application Center, customers test low-energy roasting processes to develop new taste variants.

The CUBIC and the Application Centers will be presented to Bühler's partners from industry and academia on the occasion of the Bühler Networking Days 2019. On August 26 and 27, 2019, Bühler expects to welcome nearly 800 guests from process industries around the world to this event.