



News service MAN Group

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MAN Museum in Augsburg celebrates 50 years

On 23 April 2003, the MAN Museum in Augsburg will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Founded in 1953 as the “M.A.N. Works Museum” for the Augsburg-based diesel-engine and printing-press activities, the museum facilities have now been extended to include all the Group’s core activities.

The origins of the MAN Museum go back to the year 1937 when the company began a collection of its own technical achievements with the aim of creating a “permanent historical exhibition”. Interesting machinery and components were provisionally installed in a factory building near what later became the museum.

Half a century ago, the exhibits were shown publicly for the first time on the premises of the former “M.A.N. Research Institute for Mechanics and Design”, where at the beginning of the 1950s the architect Wilhelm Wichtendahl created a spacious exhibition hall with a gallery running around the entire room. At the inauguration ceremony, which was attended by public figures such as the Bavarian Economic Minister, Hanns Seidel and the former head of GHH, Paul Reusch, an official speech was held not only by M.A.N.’s General Director Otto Meyer, but also by Eugen Diesel, son of Rudolf Diesel. At the end of the 19th century, Diesel had developed an epoch-making engine in these buildings with the support of MAN, or Maschinenfabrik Augsburg as it was called at that time.

Understandably, the “original diesel engine”, which was built in Augsburg between 1893 and 1895, was and still is the museum’s main attraction. A further highlight was (and is) one of the first flatbed printing presses dating from 1846, which is still in very good condition today. Until 2001, the museum housed exhibits from the diesel-engine and printing-press production, supplemented by continuous additions over a period of five decades.

While undergoing renovation in 2002, the exhibition space was extended by two additional rooms, allowing veteran technology and modern exhibits from MAN companies to be presented in three generous rooms flooded with light. These include a 1940 truck, power-transmission and aerospace technology, turbine and compressor construction, as well as plant engineering. Along the gallery, MAN offers a journey through time with large-scale pictures reflecting almost 250 years of product and social history as experienced by the commercial-vehicle, industrial-equipment and facilities group.

The museum is designed for various uses. In addition to presenting exhibits and information, it is also available to MAN Group companies as a representative venue for a wide range of events, such as annual general meetings, sales conferences or similar functions.

The museum may be visited from Monday to Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. subject to prior appointment.
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