

## **Circular economy for explosives**

### **SCHÄFER Container Systems supplies customised stainless steel containers for civil emulsion explosives**

Neunkirchen, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Emulsion explosives are used for blasting in the civil sector, especially in quarries or tunnel construction. The long-established Swiss company Société Suisse des Explosifs (SSE), a manufacturer and service provider in the specialist field of civil explosives and fine chemicals, and operates in the safety-critical application area of these explosives with a newly introduced circular economy system. Enabler is a special silo container design for viscous liquids of packaging groups II and III from SCHÄFER Container Systems, manufacturer of recyclable IBCs and special containers made of stainless steel.

In the specific application, SSE mixes or emulsifies ammonium nitrate with oil to form an emulsion. The emulsion is filled into the developed special containers with a capacity of 1000 litres and transported to the construction sites. At the construction site, this is transferred to a mobile explosives manufacturing unit. The mobile explosives manufacturing unit adds two further chemical components to pump the emulsion into the boreholes, where it becomes the explosive EMULGA after the gassing phase and is ignited. Emptied containers are returned to SSE in the Swiss town of Brig for cleaning, inspection and refilling.

The stainless steel silo containers with hazardous material approval are designed in such a way that forklift forks can drive under the entire surface of the container. This technology, known in the trade as a forklift tunnel, works like a guide rail. The advantage is increased stability and tilt resistance, a crucial safety aspect when transporting dangerous goods with IBCs.

For efficient emptying of the silo containers, a conical outlet was developed according to customer requirements, which can be operated with a DN 80 stainless steel ball valve. This allows the emulsion – whose viscosity is similar to the consistency of honey at room temperature – to flow out quickly so that no usable residual emulsion remains in the container. On the one hand, this increases the efficiency of the raw material use, and on the other hand, it facilitates the fundamentally necessary container cleaning.

"After a long search for a supplier of robust, custom-made special containers made of stainless steel, which can withstand the harsh conditions on the construction site for many years, we decided on SCHÄFER Container Systems. The decisive factors for the choice were

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sustainability aspects, quality, technical advice, individual design and manufacturing expertise, but also the price-performance ratio and delivery reliability," says Fabian Venetz, Director Operations at SSE Switzerland.

## Images and captions:

1. Image: SSE\_Bild-1\_(c)\_Schaefer-Werke-GmbH.jpg

Caption: Transport container in a temporary storage facility in front of a construction site

2. Image: SSE\_Bild-2\_(c)\_Schaefer-Werke-GmbH.jpg

Caption: F. Venetz in the state-of-the-art analytical laboratory of SSE, Valsynthese in Brig

## About SSE (<https://www.sse-schweiz.com>):

Société Suisse des Explosifs (SSE) is an industrial company, active in the production and sale of products and services in the fields of civil explosives and fine chemicals. The company was founded more than 125 years ago and is part of the SSE Group. SSE Switzerland currently has around 150 employees in Switzerland and supplies the Swiss and international markets. SSE's headquarters are located in the town of Brig (Canton Valais) in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

## About SCHÄFER Container Systems ([www.schaefer-container-systems.com/en/](http://www.schaefer-container-systems.com/en/)):

SCHÄFER Container Systems, an innovative manufacturer of high-quality, fully recyclable container systems (KEGs) for beverages and of IBCs and special stainless steel containers for liquids, solids and granulates, is part of the internationally successful SCHÄFER WERKE.

This owner-led enterprise is headquartered in Neunkirchen in Germany's Siegerland region and operates globally with diversified business areas: EMW Steel Service Centre, perforated sheets, fully recyclable standard and special containers in stainless steel and installations for data centres as well as workshops and factories. The work of all these divisions is based on high-quality fine steel sheet. The processing of this material is one of the core competencies of this enterprise.

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**Sales:** SCHÄFER Container Systems, Pfannenbergstraße 1, D-57290 Neunkirchen,  
Tel.: +49 2735 787-481, Fax: +49 2735 787-493, E-mail: [info@schaefer-container-systems.de](mailto:info@schaefer-container-systems.de)

**Marketing:** SCHÄFER Werke GmbH, Christina Fuß, Pfannenbergstraße 1, D-57290 Neunkirchen,  
Tel.: +49 2735 787-636, Fax: +49 2735 787-284, E-mail: [cfuss@schaefer-werke.de](mailto:cfuss@schaefer-werke.de)

**Press:** KONTAKT PR · Agentur Schmalbrock, Alte Reichsstraße 5, D-86356 Neusäß,  
Tel.: +49 152 0771 0402, Fax: +49 821 5082 4499, E-mail: [presse@kontaktpr.net](mailto:presse@kontaktpr.net)