

Success through Performance





Claus Ostertag

It was thanks to the dedication and boldness of Manfred Valentin Huck that Sächsische Netzwerke Huck GmbH was established in 1990. From the start, this young company faced a major challenge. The skilled and well-qualified employees who had been taken on from the former "VEB Vereinigte Netz- und Seilwerke Heidenau" netting and rope plant suddenly found they had to change tack. Changed market conditions meant that the nets they used to produce for the fishing industry had to be replaced by an entirely different range of products that included industrial, safety and sports netting. They achieved this feat in record time.

Thanks to our substantial investment in factory buildings, plants and machines over the course of the past two decades, our company has seen dynamic development. As part of this continuity, a third factory building, which provides us with additional production and warehousing space, was completed in 2010. Our market leadership in Europe is based in large part on our ability constantly to find new fields of application for our products. Sales have seen a ninefold increase since our first year of trading. Although our company saw a slight drop-off over the last two years as a result of the global economic crisis, we were able to bring to book a small increase in turnover for 2010.

We are proud of what we have achieved in the last 20 years. This success is mostly due to our employees, to whom I would like to dedicate a special word of praise. We began with 18 members of staff, today we have over 70 blue- and white-collar workers. Some of them have been with us from the start. And to ensure that we attract the junior staff we need, we offer opportunities for training and gaining qualifications. We offer young people apprenticeships as textile-machine operators, textile mechanics and within our commercial department. We look forward in the knowledge that our company has a promising future as well as a successful past.

Claus Ostertag
Managing Director



Sächsische Netzwerke Huck GmbH



*New building at the Heidenau plant
January 2011*

More than 100 years of experience, a high degree of technological competence and a broad product range makes us the leading manufacturer of textile nets in Europe. We produce continuous netting, made-to-measure nets and ropes. We have introduced knotless safety nets and sports nets to numerous different fields of application and in many fields our products have become an integral part of indispensable equipment. Our products are reliable and economical, can be used for a very wide range of functions and have a long service life.

The Heidenau plant near Dresden has been gradually extended over time. An area of about 25,000 m² offers a high production potential and generous warehousing. One of the principles of our business culture is to act quickly, flexibly and in the interest of our customers. This involves having a strong working relationship with the companies in the Huck group who take around 90 percent of our output for further processing, as well as working with our external customers. We focus on partnerships that benefit all parties.

A full range of products ...

The product range comprises around 1,000 different types of knotless nettings. This wide variety is based on individual product design – with thicknesses ranging from 0.5 to 22 mm, mesh openings between 5 and 360 mm and with various mesh designs. All our nets are available in a wide range of colours.

Specific product variations add to the variety of available products. One example: Nets with integrated steel reinforcement are designed for use under the kind of punishing conditions that apply to heavily used playground equipment.



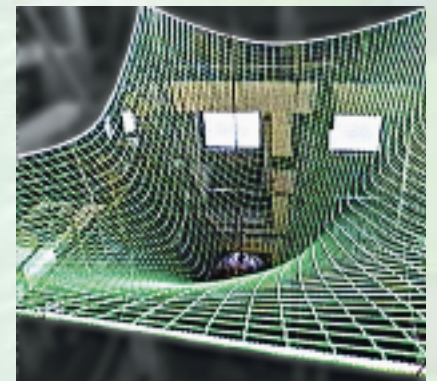
Hercules rope



... for effective protection at work

Safety nets have an important role to play in maintaining industrial health and safety standards and providing against accident risks. As they weight so little, they are quick and easy to fit and offer the flexibility of repeated reuse in different places. More often than not there is no alternative to their deployment.

Nets provide a safety feature for people who work on scaffolding and roofs puts them at risk of falling.



1,000 different types of nets to choose from



Safety nets for pallet racking prevent stored goods from falling down and offer protection to the workforce.

... in the service of our environment

Netting stops lightweight materials such as paper, foils and foams escaping from waste disposal sites.

They keep the surrounding area clean and save site operators money and trouble.



Barriers at the edge of the road protect toads during their migration period.



... for transport safety



Up to 2 tons of building materials and other goods can be comfortably lifted with loading nets.



Luggage nets in cars, buses, trains and planes prevent objects brought along by passengers coming free and endangering the safety of others on board.



Nets and air-permeable, woven tarpaulins are used to protect loads. At the same time they secure them, preventing them from falling out and thereby causing accidents and traffic obstructions.



Nets on conveyor belts catch any material that falls off. 'Soft' loads are gently contained.



... for sport, play and leisure



Nets are part of the standard equipment for a large number of sports – from soccer and basketball to ice hockey and volleyball, to name but a few. Large protective and stop nets ensure that hammer and discus throwing events and indoor soccer matches run safely and provide protection at ice rinks and in gymnasiums. Textile fences edge downhill skiing slopes

Individually designed soccer goal nets with multi-coloured honeycomb or square meshes look attractive.

Our nets also provide eye-catching features to the sport of tennis, where they are used to divide the court into two halves. Woven tarpaulins provide wind protection to outdoor courts and wall linings for covered courts, as well as doubling as unmissable advertising hoardings.



Innovative net technology

Fibre manufacture

Net expertise means creating new products, improving existing products and accessing new fields of application. Time and again our pioneering developments and patents have set benchmarks. Prestigious awards confirm our abilities.



Knitting knotless nets



Robust combination of materials

Slashed or burnt nets are a nuisance in public playgrounds and sports fields. As a vandal-proof alternative we have developed the "Mahulan Steel*" polypropylene protective net; a spun, fire retardant design reinforced with a stainless steel wire strand – the soft net with a hard core. It will withstand attack and

can be destroyed only by means of extreme force. At the same time it offers a high level of noise protection. Unlike wire mesh or bar grating fences, it does not when hit by a ball produce the kind of rattling noises that can cause a nuisance to residential areas. The ideal ball stop netting or goal net solution.



Medium for spellbinding lighting concepts

Together with the Chemnitz Textile Research Institute of Saxony (Sächsisches Textilforschungsinstitut Chemnitz e.V. (STFI)) and the BEDEA company in Asslar we have developed a fibre optics net, which has been

awarded the Techtextil Innovation Prize. The plastic fibre optics are woven into the netting radiate projected light and produce unusual effects when used sculpturally or even as a curtain.



All-round expertise – from yarn manufacture to made-up product

The starting point for our value chain is the yarn production process. We extrude polypropylene granules to spin multi-filament yarns in a multitude of thicknesses and colours. Additives endow the yarns with the characteristics required by our customers. High-performance knitting machines transform the yarns into nets. Modern machinery guarantees precision in the production process. We modify and expand our machines to suit requirements and to ensure that production is always cost-efficient. We are happy to make-up ready-for-use end products on request.



Knitting knotless nets





Consistent quality assurance

Our nets and ropes are renowned for their high quality. In order to maintain this standard throughout the manufacturing process, constant inspections have been integrated into our production processes. The centre of our quality management is the in-house textile laboratory, where we check our products' tensile strength, abrasion resistance, stress-strain behaviour and colour. This enables us constantly to meet the tightest tolerances even for large-batch productions. The high standard of our quality management system was confirmed in 2010 when we were successful in achieving DIN EN ISO 9001:2008 recertification.



Quality testing at the in-house laboratory

However, the most important factors in achieving high quality standard are, as ever, our people. Our workforce, over 90 percent of which is made up of skilled and qualified employees, guarantees by means of its skill and dedication the positive results of our work.



Customer-centred for close partnerships

As suppliers, we have a particular responsibility to shoulder. We understand what the markets require and fine-tune our developmental work accordingly. We also pick up on our customers' suggestions to enable us to meet every requirement with made-to-measure solutions. Our production and warehousing capacities ensure that customers are supplied promptly.

Nets are produced in 2-shift operations whereas yarn is produced in continuous shifts. The high rack warehouse's flexible organisational structure and the products kept in stock enable us to meet deadlines reliably and, when necessary, to improvise – for instance by fulfilling unusual making-up requests.



High rack warehouse



**Prompt deliveries
to all our customers**



Stefan Huck

A mainstay of the group

Despite continuing globalisation and increasing competitive pressures, we can maintain our strong market position by implementing robust measures. Among these was the establishment in 1990/1991 of "Sächsische Netzwerke Huck". With this commitment to Heidenau we have secured a comprehensive range of expertise in the field of nets and ropes – and our development has seen us go from finishing nets to producing complete nets, from our making netting to producing fully made-up nets, and eventually, to covering the manufacturing processes from fibre all the way to finished product. By doing this we have also substantially expanded our value chain and technological know-how.

The Sächsische Netzwerke Huck is the 'pearl' in the Huck group of companies. Its key role is based on its employees' knowledge and dedication as much as on its first-rate equipment. This means that the company is a competent partner who can react quickly and flexibly to its customers' requirements and guarantee its products' consistently high quality.

In the 20 years since it was founded, Sächsische Netzwerke Huck has been constantly growing and developing. Steady investment has considerably increased productivity. Naturally, there have been periods of consolidation, but we can say that it is impossible now to imagine either the region or the group without Sächsische Netzwerke Huck.

The market poses ongoing challenges, be they from our customers' requirements or as a result of policy frameworks for aspects as diverse as the environment, safety, recreational facilities etc. Trend-setting developments are frequently in demand. Our overall expertise which, thanks to Sächsische Netzwerke Huck, also includes the manufacture of unfinished and semi-finished goods, means that we can control the specific characteristics of our nets, knitted materials and ropes. Our ability to innovate is the reason why the Huck group of companies is always a step ahead of the competition.

Stefan Huck
Managing Director
Manfred Huck GmbH and
Huck Seiltechnik GmbH

Nets – a Heidenau tradition for over 100 years



A net knotting machine in Heidenau

The origins of net production in Heidenau lie far back in time. In 1906 the engineering works and cotton-spinning mill Carsten Kordt began to manufacture their own nets for the fishing industry in addition to building machine parts for net knotting machines. Four years later the company changed its name to Dresdner Netzwerke GmbH and employed more than 30 people. Sales collapsed during the First World War, but the 20s brought a dynamic recovery and provided jobs for more than 220 people. The export trade was booming: 26 net knotting machines were supplied to the Soviet Union between 1919 and 1926.

The world economic crisis in 1929 decimated the business substantially, but by 1935 the workforce had grown to 100 employees. During the Second World War the company focused on the production of camouflage netting. It carried on after the War, and in the mid-1950s was liquidated and then became the property of the state. The netting industry was centred in Heidenau, and the cotton mill and net-knotting facilities were modernised thanks to high levels of investment.

In 1956 the first polyamide-based yarns were produced. Raschel machines were used to make the first knotless nets. Heidenau became a "leading product group plant" for nets and ropes, which encompassed a total of eight factories with 47 production facilities. From then on the company was called "VEB Vereinigte Netz- und Seilwerke Heidenau" and, until the end of the DDR, it employed approximately 2,100 people.

During the course of German reunification many of the previously affiliated companies regained independence. However, with the advent of monetary union the old export links to Eastern Europe were severed and the production of nets for the fishing industry was abandoned as it was not profitable. The company, which in the meantime had become "Heidenauer Technische Textilien GmbH", went into liquidation in 1990. The sale of the business allowed the production of plastic packaging straps and nets to remain at the Heidenau site. In late 1990 Manfred Huck GmbH & Co. KG acquired the net production facilities and began trading on 01 February 1991 under the company name of "Sächsische Netzwerke Huck GmbH" in Pirna Liebethal and Markersbach. In 1993 the company moved to the first new building on today's site, which by 2010 contained three production halls and one high rack warehouse.

Dresdner Netzwerke "Catalogue Cover"



Leipzig Trade Fair 1930



1956: Early polyamide-based net yarns



Old production hall - demolished in 1992



First new building July 1993



Opening of the first new production hall in 1993, founder Manfred Huck on the left

Modernised manufacture

Early knotless nets for the fishing industry in Heidenau



Innovative solutions for technology, people and the environment

Sächsische Netzwerke Huck GmbH is a part of the Huck group of companies which supplies a full range of nets to customers all over the world – nets for the most diverse applications in sport, industry and across the building trades as well as play equipment made with nets and ropes.

All of Huck's products meet high functionality, performance, service life and design requirements.



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