

## ***Press information***

### **Europe's most modern production plant for racking uprights and beams**

*Contrary to the trend of outsourcing company sectors into low wage countries, BITO remains committed to Germany as a production site – at their headquarters in Meisenheim, BITO set up a plant to manufacture and finish uprights, beams and other components of their new PRO pallet racking family.*

As almost no other company in the industry, the family owned single source supplier of racking and shelving as well as plastic bins and containers, the German based company BITO-Lagertechnik Bittmann GmbH in Meisenheim opted for Germany as location for their entire production process. In 2007, BITO established a metal manufacturing plant in India, however this plant only produces shelving and racking for the regional South East Asian markets. The fact that even today, it is possible to manufacture metal and plastic products in a high income country such as Germany without compromising on efficiency and cost-effectiveness is proven day in, day out by the BITO staff in both plants, in Meisenheim (metal processing) as well as in Lauterecken (plastic processing). Constant investment into production facilities and methods did not only result in a higher productivity. Just as important for BITO is to observe the requirements of up-to-date conditions of work and environmental protection. BITO's commitment in these fields is not a mere lip service – on the contrary, they prove that efficiency, productivity, profitability and environmentally sound production methods agree with social responsibility.

## **Quality products made by BITO**

BITO's latest investment into a new production plant in Meisenheim is in line with their commitment to quality and modernisation. The plant was purpose-built and equipped for manufacturing the PRO pallet racking system. The new hall complete with its special equipment also reflects BITO's development from a supplier of systems and components to a full service provider with integrated and most comprehensive production capacities. With the exception of some few purchased parts, everything is produced by BITO. It is the combination of creativity, innovation, in-house production and customer proximity which accounts for the bigger part of BITO's success. Not only does this combination offer economic advantages for BITO and their customers. Equally important is the consistently high product quality and reliably high levels of performance, delivery and service quality. The new production plant for heavy duty PRO racking components is representative of BITO's allround capability: PRO racking components pass through all production stages, from their origin as a coil to the finished product ready for assembly, which, after order-related collation, immediately leaves the plant at Meisenheim.

## **Fully automated production lines for PRO racking uprights and beams**

At the heart of the new production centre are the bending facilities and the punching/metal forming machines for racking uprights, beams and assorted components such as hook connectors. In a largely automated process, the PRO components are produced in order-related batch sizes. The state-of-the-art production process of the pallet racking components starts with coil storage and preparation and continues with strip steel in-feeding onto the production lines either for uprights or for beams or onto the punching/metal forming line for hook connectors.

The PRO uprights and beams are each worked in a bending facility of the Italian mechanical engineering specialist Gasparini. In a continuous process, the coils are lifted onto turn-around decoilers and decoiled successively. In order to allow a continuous work flow, the decoilers are equipped with a welding unit to link a strip end with the strip beginning of a new coil. After passing a trueing device, the metal strip now moves to a punching robot which can be activated according to order and also punches additional slots according to customer requirement. In a next step, the metal profile passes the bending station. The uprights and beams are then cut to the required length by downstream overhung saws moving at workpiece feed speed with automatic reset to the starting point. In a further step, the hook connectors are welded to the beams.

### **Product and customer specific production**

In the finishing area, the beams are either directed to a buffer stock or they are immediately cleaned, epoxy-coated, stoved, cooled down and finally palletised. At the assembly station, the bended uprights are mounted to frames. The bending stations for both components, beams and uprights, are designed to take account of specific requirements without the necessity of making time consuming or expensive changeovers. Order specific upright and beam lengths, slot patterns or epoxy coating in a colour to choice can be easily handled.

The new production hall exclusively produces PRO pallet racking components. This means fast order processing, limited and above all cost reduced supply and intermediate storage quantities of materials and immediate availability to ensure fast delivery.

Construction works for what is now BITO hall 7 began in March 2006 and in March 2007 the facility went into operation. The start-up period is finished and production is in full swing. Backed by state-of-the-art technologies, a high degree of automation and enlarged production capacities, the BITO group is well on the way to increase their market share in the pallet racking segment, to push their major project business and to strengthen their competitiveness as a full service provider of storage and order picking solutions.

**For reader enquiries:**

BITO-Lagertechnik Bittmann GmbH  
Monday-Thursday from 7 am to 6 pm  
Friday from 7 am to 4.30 pm  
Tel.: +49/6753/122-0  
Fax: +49/6753/122-399

**For journalist enquiries:**

BITO-Lagertechnik Bittmann GmbH  
Silvia Feder  
Tel.: +49/6753/122-217  
Fax: +49/6753/122-5840  
Email: fes@bito.de