

PRESS RELEASE

18-10-76

10 10 2018

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Expansion of international network and testing services at the Rosenheim Fire Protection Centre of ift and UL

Successful suppliers of window, façade, door and gate systems as well as their suppliers are internationally oriented. In order to continue to optimally support these customer groups, ift Rosenheim has expanded its international network by gaining recognition in the USA, Canada and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This also offers advantages to window and façade manufacturers who carry out demanding projects in Germany and worldwide.

Globalization and technological change affect almost all business activities. Suppliers from all over the world can also be found in our industry. However, this is not a one-way street to Germany, but applies in both directions. Many manufacturers of windows, facades, doors and accessories use resources in other countries or successfully occupy the premium segment there. Because in most countries, solvent customers appreciate products "**Made in Germany**", both for reasons of prestige as well as high functionality and quality.

For this reason, the company's presence in its core European market was expanded. Since the summer of 2018, **ift Hellas** in Greece and **ift Hvratksa** in Croatia have been independent companies that offer and provide testing and services under their own responsibility. For customers, this means a plus in speed and, in some cases, lowers costs, because a lengthy journey is avoided. This covers a large part of **South-eastern** Europe.



With the new combi furnace in the Rosenheim Fire Protection Centre, horizontal and vertical tests on loaded/unloaded building components up to 5 m x 4 m are possible.

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Fig 1 Independent companies in Croatia and Greece improve customer service

ift Rosenheim's international position in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** was strengthened by the recognition of the **Civil Defence Department** for the testing and certification of construction products with fire and smoke protection requirements and by its cooperation with the **Canadian Quality Auditing Institute (QAI)**. As an inspection body for QAI, ift Rosenheim carries out the majority of inspections of building products in Europe, simplifying processing and offering price advantages through reduced travel costs.



Fig 2 The recognition of ift tests and certifications makes it easier to use European fire protection elements in the United Arab Emirates

The core of the international network is of course the cooperation with the globally active testing and certification body **UL (Underwriters Laboratories)**. After intensive coordination of the workflows, the advantages and synergies are now taking effect. The special know-how of the ift experts in windows, doors and facades, plus the expert knowledge in safety and the global presence of UL are now available at operational level. A number of ift customers have already benefited from the common motto "Connect global markets - with your experts for fire protection testing in Europe" in projects in the Middle East or the USA. Many ift customers operate in the conurbations of the American east coast, which can easily be served by ship freight. In addition, the building elements from Europe enjoy an excellent reputation in the USA in terms of quality, technology and energy efficiency. There are attractive market opportunities for German window and facade manufacturers, because a large number of old high-rise buildings have windows and glass facades with single glazing that have to be restored to energy efficiency. The tests, verifications and production monitoring can be carried out in Rosenheim – they are recognised by UL in the USA and Canada, in accordance with **AAMA, CSA** or **WDMA** standards.

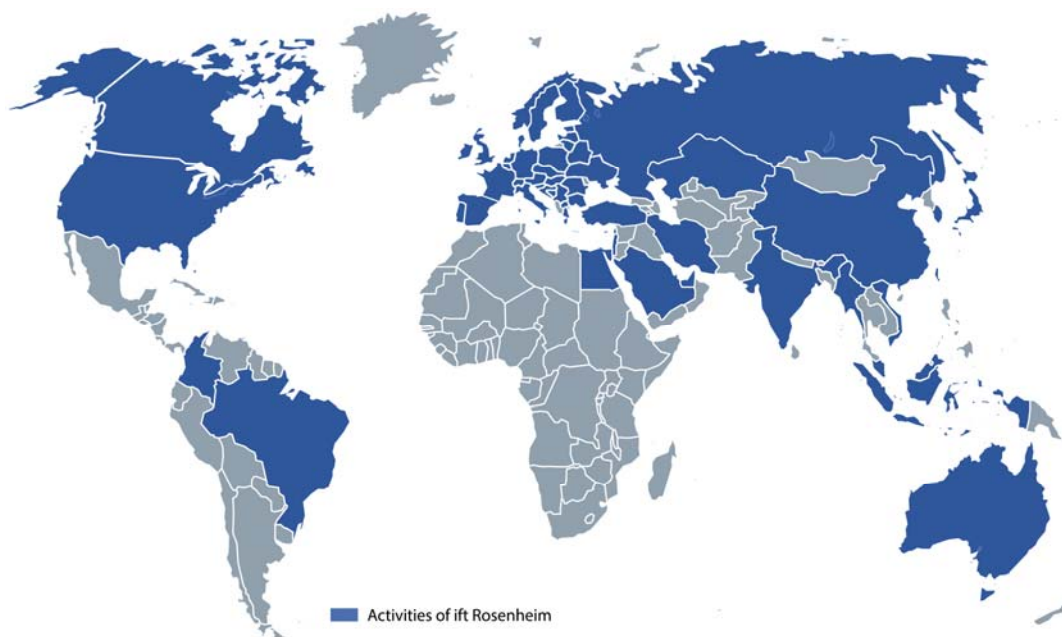


Fig 3 Internationally active manufacturers of windows, facades, doors, gates and accessories benefit from ift Rosenheim's cooperation with UL and other leading testing and certification bodies.

Structural fire protection plays a special role worldwide. Whether in India, Russia, the United Arab Emirates or Great Britain – major fire catastrophes lead to a drastic tightening of requirements. The ift Rosenheim and UL are currently testing 100 doors for fire resistance according to EN 1634 and British Standard

BS 476-Pt-22 "on behalf of Her Majesty". The doors were sampled directly from the trade shops. The British government wants to determine the actual fire resistance duration of commercially available products in order to obtain a solid basis for changes in the monitoring and certification of fire protection elements. Thanks to the **flexible accreditation** of ift Rosenheim and the modern testing facilities of the fire protection center in Rosenheim, four door elements can be tested simultaneously in accordance with the special British test conditions so that the tight schedule can be met.



Fig 4 "On Her Majesty's behalf" 100 doors are tested for fire resistance in accordance with EN 1634 and British Standard BS 476-Pt-22 at the Rosenheim Fire Protection Centre.

In Europe, the introduction of the **product standard EN 16034** "Doors, gates and windows – Product standard, performance characteristics – Fire and/or smoke protection characteristics" and the possible CE marking will increase and redistribute the market. With the end of the coexistence phase at the end of October 2019, the previous system of building authority approvals will no longer apply. Together with the harmonization of EN 14351-2 for interior doors in mid-2019, a large dynamic will enter the European market of construction elements with requirements for fire resistance and smoke protection. In order to meet the expected rush of tests and the normatively required external monitoring, the testing facilities at the Rosenheim Fire Protection Centre of by UL and ift was expanded and completed.

In addition to the existing furnaces (8 m × 5 m and 5 m × 5 m), **three further test furnaces** were added:

1. **Floor Furnace**

Tests on horizontal (5 m × 4 m) and vertical (4 m × 2.5 m) loaded/unloaded components according to ETK, UL, HC and RWS curves. The load is applied with 16 cylinders á 5 tons, 10 cylinders á 10 or 20 tons (not more than 60 tons per bracket).

2. **Column Furnace**

Tests on columns/supports (size 3 m × 3 m × 3 m) according to ETK, UL, HC and RWS curves, loaded or unloaded with a rear loading device for 500 tons.

3. **Small Scale Furnace**

Tests on vertical (1,5 m × 1,5 m) and horizontal (1,5 m × 2 m) components according to ETK, UL, HC and RWS curves, unloaded.



Small Scale Furnace
Vertical (1,5 m × 1,5 m), Horizontal (1,5 m × 2 m)
Testing according to ETK-, UL-, HC- and RWS-curve, unloaded



Column Furnace
3 m × 3 m × 3 m, Testing according to ETK-, UL-, HC- und RWS-curve, oaded/unloaded up to 500 tons



Floor Furnace
Testing of horizontal (5 m × 4 m) and vertical (4 m × 2,5 m) loaded/unloaded components according to ETK-, UL-, HC- und RWS-curve.
The load is applied with 16 cylinders á 5 tons, 10 cylinders á 10 or 20 tons (not more than 60 tons per bracket).

Fig 5 New test furnaces complete the range at the Rosenheim Fire Protection Centre

The **Notified Product Certification Body** (NPZ) in Nuremberg has also "upgraded" its organization and personnel in order to offer ift customers the necessary service. This includes know-how and experience in interpreting the underlying **Exap standards** of the EN 15269 series with almost 700 pages. The NPZ of ift Rosenheim can refer here to more than 17 years of testing experience, more than **2,000 fire protection tests**, expert opinions and already more than **50 EXAP** reports. According to the popular wisdom "first come, first served", many companies take the opportunity to obtain all the necessary tests and certificates now in order to avoid waiting times in 2019.

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Info about ift Rosenheim (for the technical press)

ift Rosenheim is a notified European testing, surveillance and certification body with international accreditation, according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025. The core activities at ift Rosenheim include practical, holistic and fast testing and assessment of all characteristics of windows, facades, doors, gates, glazing and construction materials. Its goals include sustainable improvement of product quality, design, and technology as well as work on standardisation and research. Certification by ift Rosenheim assures you of acceptance all over Europe. At ift, we are committed to providing knowledge and as an unbiased institution, ift Rosenheim enjoys a special status with the media – the publications document the current state-of-the-art technology.

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Info about ift Rosenheim (for the public press)

You need skills, technology and experience for good structures, and this is especially applicable to windows, facades and doors. Since 1996, ift Rosenheim has been supporting the industry as a neutral scientific institute with technical services and more than 200 employees. These include conducting tests and research, certification and quality management as well as standardisation, advanced education and technical information. In this manner, ift Rosenheim is promoting the development of quality products that are suitable for use, environment-friendly and efficient, and which make life more comfortable, more secure and safer, and healthier.

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