



Fritz Sauter

Sauter: a piece of history in Grindelwald.

It was a momentous occasion as Markus Brückner, Fritz Sauter's grandson and a longstanding figure in the company, recounted the events of 1910. That was the year that Fritz Sauter opened a small workshop producing timers and time-switches in the village of Grindelwald in Switzerland's Bernese Oberland. Thus began the one-of-a-kind success story that led to Sauter's present-day expertise in air-conditioning and building management. Markus Brückner had the company founder's time-switch and original drawings stored away in his basement, and these were ceremonially presented to Grindelwald's museum of local history.

Fr. Sauter Ltd. has been given a permanent place in the Grindelwald museum of local history: a dedicated display cabinet was officially inaugurated on 3rd December 2004. Speeches by representatives of Sauter and the community of Grindelwald recalled the company's origins and subsequent development. Exhibits of equipment dating from the company's early years aroused strong interest and wonder among the assembled guests and visitors.

Sauter time-switches were mainly used to control street lighting, illuminated signs and advertising billboards. Sauter soon began manufacturing the relay clock mechanisms as well; some specimens are still in operation to this day! During the years of World War I, Fritz Sauter developed the first electrically powered boiler that made use of cheap night-tariff electricity. Today's comprehensive range is the result of steady development from those early products for time and temperature control for boilers.

tion to a joint stock company and, from there, business activity spread successively to other European countries.

A museum place for an ongoing story

Today, with a successful history that will soon date back 100 years, Sauter and its 1600 employees, under the general management of Rudolf Weber, is among the leading companies in the industry.

The museum of local history has honoured Sauter as a community pioneer whose far-sighted vision laid the foundation stone for a company that now enjoys success all over the world.

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Looking to the future from Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau

The logistical challenges of a fast-growing business led Fritz Sauter to relocate operations to Basle. The first premises on the company's present site went up on 1st September 1919. A year later came the transi-



Markus Brückner and Samuel Michel, Manager of the Regional Museum



Regional Museum in Grindelwald



Markus Brückner



Rudolf Weber and Markus Brückner with their wives