

Engineering and quality “made by Sauter”: investments in valve production and testing.

The new generation of valves from Sauter feature more than improved technical functionality. Valve assembly has been further expanded with a view to ‘zero defects’, assisted by a new testing facility. This establishes the groundwork for continued production in Basle, with the highest standards of quality and productivity.

Sauter would not be Sauter without its traditional core strengths in component development and production. The necessary resources are still concentrated in Basle like nowhere else: experienced engineers, technicians and production staff with the highest levels of specialist expertise and an interdisciplinary philosophy with regard to quality. Sauter has built on this by making a considerable production investment in the new generation of valves.

Local expertise and quality were not the only key aspects. Also at issue was maximum adaptability to the numerous regulation and control systems being used at present, especially in European markets.

Moreover, there are always some customers who have special technical requirements, or who place orders of extremely

New assembly facilities for increased production efficiency

Even now, valve production involves a great deal of manual assembly work: no robot offers better performance in terms of the precision required. Although valve housings and the new Sauter valve cone are pre-manufactured by machine, experienced people assemble the individual components by hand.

New tools and equipment have been installed to make production even more precise and efficient. Redesigned assembly workstations minimise tooling times, so that costs are covered even if the batch comprises only one unit.

New valve testing installation assures quality

Checking is better than trusting, so every finished valve goes through the new VPA III valve tester to verify its seal and characteristic curve.

The tester incorporates state-of-the-art technology for faster and more efficient checking sequences. A servomotor adjusts the valves under test, with the latest PLC technology (Rexroth-Indradrive/L-40) to run the testing phases. Assembly and test cycles operate synchronously, to ensure optimum throughput time. An automatic transfer system transports the valves under test to and from the testing bay.

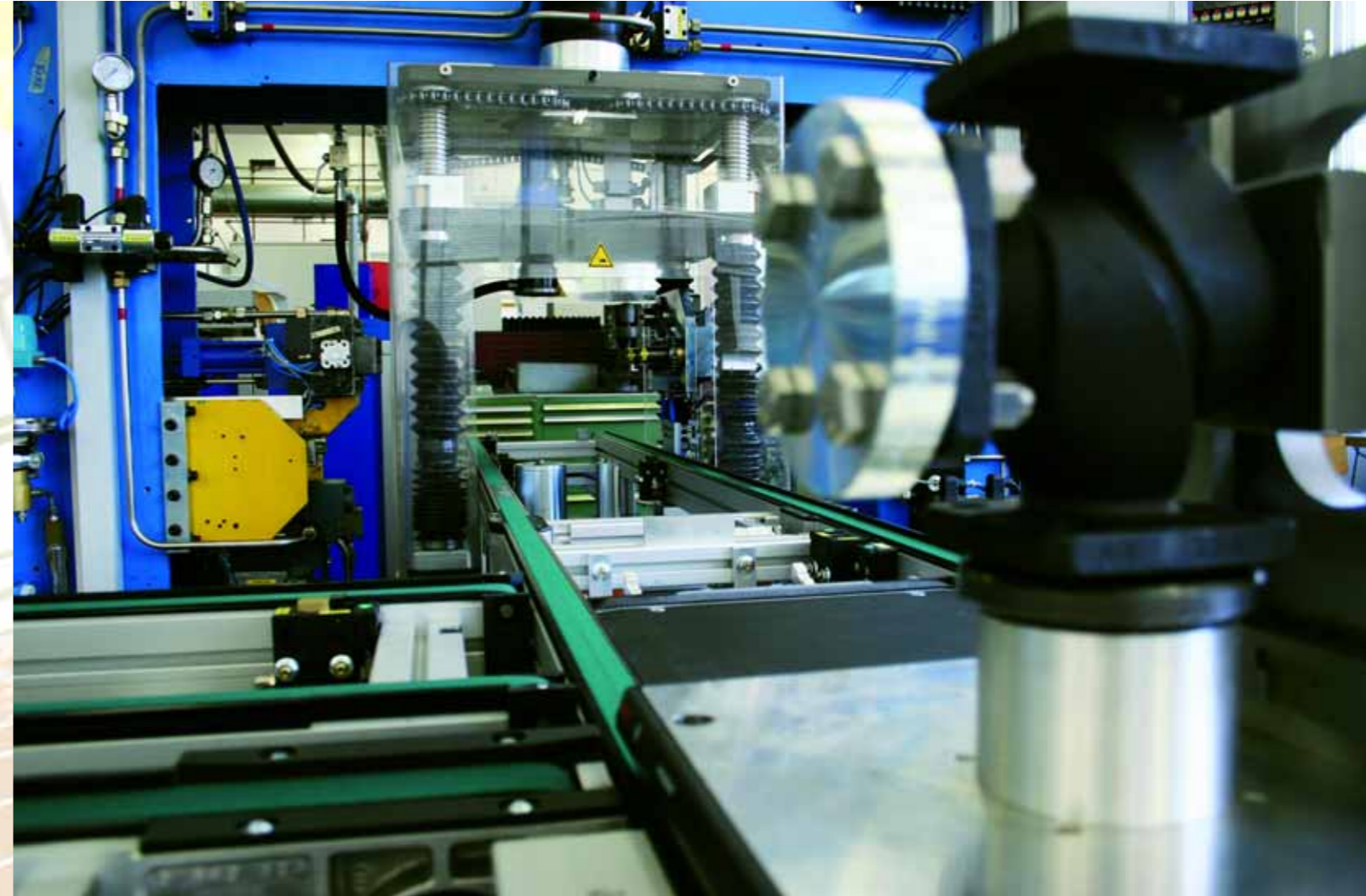
An integrated belt filter is part of a system to produce the highest-quality water for use in testing. The water contains no

additives, so it has little or no impact on the environment.

Test results are logged by an industrial PC. The test figures can be transferred directly, for inclusion on the relevant certificates. The valve-testing equipment is also linked to the company intranet, which facilitates remote maintenance – a definite technological plus.

generation of Sauter valves. Together, they represent the state of the art for ensuring product quality, performance and functional reliability.

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small quantities. We want our production facilities to be capable of satisfying all our customers' wishes.

One major advantage of the new installation is its ability to test every type of valve produced by Sauter.

So there are new production facilities, plus the testing installation for the latest