

PRESS RELEASE

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Coating Lorry and Trailer Superstructures

Moving and Painting Large Items Efficiently

F. X. Meiller Fahrzeug- & Maschinenfabrik commissioned its new facilities for coating large items in early July. Two 70 m-long painting tunnels installed in parallel offer space for 14 stations and can each take up to 12 items weighing 8 tons apiece. Two chain conveyor systems from Vollert provide the required pulling force.

Functionality and efficiency were among the key objectives when planning the new painting tunnels of Meiller. Taking into account the available space and trolleys already in use at the plant, a decision was made to integrate a floor-bound conveyor system from Vollert Anlagenbau. The painting and drying systems are from SLF Oberflächentechnik in Greven-Reckenfeld. Meiller, a family-owned business based in Munich, has been manufacturing boxes for dump trucks and dumper trailers for 150 years and currently employs some 1,500 workers. Dumper boxes, for example, can weigh up to 8 tons and are anything but small. The conveyor system therefore had to be able to pull up to 50 tons per tunnel and integrate into the existing environment.

Each Item Can Be Moved Separately

"Our system meets all the requirements defined. By modifying the drawbars of the trolleys, we can inch items separately without manual intervention," explains Dieter Schnell, project manager at Vollert Anlagenbau. A special conveyor chain was designed for this purpose and takes up the drawbars automatically at any point along the track after the trolleys have been moved into place at the infeed station. The chain can run continuously, even when individual trolleys are being processed at the workstations. Pneumatic release stations in the base coat, colour coat, and drier areas coordinate where drawbars connect to and release from the chain. A controller senses when the next workstation is available so that each trolley can be moved independently of the others. The units move together when all workstations are manually cleared, at which point up to 50 tons must be shifted by the chain conveyors.

Vollert Anlagenbau specialises in moving heavy loads. In addition to floor-bound designs, engineers in Weinsberg develop above-floor conveyor systems for industrial-sized painting plants that can take up to 50-ton loads at one time. "We factor in available space and the size and weight of the workpieces before deciding which intralogistics solution is the most

appropriate," explains Dieter Schnell. "Floor-bound transport systems such as the one used in Munich can also be designed in a circular or oval-type arrangement, where the radius is not limited by the system itself, but by the minimum turning radius of the trolleys."

About Vollert Anlagenbau GmbH

As specialists for heavy loads and large parts, Vollert Anlagenbau GmbH develops turnkey intralogistic concepts for the aluminum and metal industry. As a general contractor and full-service provider, the service range encompasses state-of-the-art material flow, storage and packaging technology as a stand-alone solution or integrated into a larger logistics environment.

Whether fully automated mega-high bay systems for aluminum coils, intelligent material flow systems for the leading aluminum extrusion press manufacturers, the world's most efficient storage and retrieval machines for the storage of sheet metal plates, automatic crane systems for 50 tons and more or the most modern surface coating systems – Vollert is everywhere.

Vollert's plant and machine solutions are used in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its subsidiaries in Asia and South America also strengthen the sales activities. Vollert employs 250 people at its company headquarters in Weinsberg. www.vollert.de

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Image 1

Each painting tunnel at Meiller in Munich is 70 metres long and offers enough space for up to 14 stations. The chain conveyor systems are from Vollert Anlagenbau and can provide up to 50 tons of pulling force each.



Image 2

The individual parts of dumper boxes can weigh up to 8 tons and are positioned on trolleys before entering the tunnel. Workpieces move through the facility fully automatically.



Image 3

The conveyor system from Vollert Anlagenbau can inch trolleys as other ones are being processed. Pneumatic release stations in the work areas coordinate where drawbars connect to and release from the chain. A controller senses when the next work area is available.



Image 4

The trolleys, which were already in use at Meiller, required only minimal modifications for the new conveyor system. The chain conveyor from Vollert Anlagenbau can take up the trolleys by means of the drawbar at any point along the track and move the units automatically.