

Press information

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Wetter (Ruhr)/Pfaffenhain.

### **Schließanlagen GmbH Pfaffenhain – The history**

The history of Schließanlagen GmbH Pfaffenhain starts in 1946, when Hans Wetzel created the company “Mechanische Werkstätten Pfaffenhain Erzgebirge”. Besides the manufacturing of mechanical equipment for craftsmen and small businesses, the company produced furniture lock cylinders and profile double cylinders from the beginning.

When the company was partly nationalised in 1959, its name changed to “Hans Wetzel Mechanische Werkstätten Pfaffenhain”. The then 60 employees manufactured mainly locking systems and precision drills till the 70’s. In 1972 the firm was fully nationalised under the name “VEB Schlossfabrik Pfaffenhain”.

The company then being a VEB (owned by the state and the people), it made fast progress towards specialisation. Consequently, from the mid 70’s on, the staff of 70 people produced nothing but lock cylinders with a 50,000 annual production capacity.

After the reunion of Germany in 1989, the heirs of the company’s founder successfully re-privatised the firm under the name “Schließanlagen GmbH Pfaffenhain”. Mr Christoph Rainer and Mr Konrad Köhler took up the management.

During the following 5 years, the company invested in very sophisticated production machines, so that in 1996, the jubilee year of the company, it possessed one of the world’s most modern production workshops for locking systems.

Buildings like the Burji Al Arab in Dubai, the New Parliament in London or the Charité in Berlin are equipped with the highly developed Pfaffenhain systems made in Saxony.

On 1 January 2003, Schließanlagen GmbH Pfaffenhain was merged with ABUS KG. However, the Pfaffenhain name will not fade as it continues to be marketed as an independent company. With perfect synergy Schließanlagen GmbH Pfaffenhain takes advantage of the know-how of ABUS regarding marketing and sales, while ABUS gains new access to the highest quality profile cylinders and R&D. Managing director Mr Christoph Rainer now leads the whole Pfaffenhain business.