

OBO Blick Winter 2021 Edition

# Blick

## Sustainability

Reusable pallets and green electricity at OBO

## OBO Academy International

Carsten Austinat introduces himself as Head of the OBO Academy

## Game, Set and Match

OBO sponsors tennis talents Jan-Lennard Struff and Max Schönhaus

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Winter 2021 edition



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# OBO is well positioned for 2022

OBO's Managing Director Michael Bünfeld is optimistic about the coming year

A very unusual year lies behind us – along with some very unusual challenges. We overcame them all thanks to the commitment of the entire OBO workforce.

In tough times like these, it's essential to stay on the right track. For us as the management team there are two main areas that are always on our minds: protecting our workforce and ensuring that goods remain available to our customers. The first has been achieved on account of our employees' enormous flexibility – including their working from home – and through protective measures in administration and production, as well as the digitalisation of communication. The second was achieved, above all, thanks to our depth of manufacturing at our European production sites and our well-stocked warehouses. Some other businesses don't invest in their warehouses due to a lack of capital and become reliant on just-in-time delivery. That is not OBO's philosophy. We manufacture a very large proportion of our products ourselves in each of the three product application areas, which puts us in a comfortable and relatively secure position of independence from suppliers in many respects. This became especially evident during the raw materials crisis in the construction industry. Despite the challenges posed by rocketing prices of steel, wire and plastic, and the major struggles some suppliers were experiencing, we remained fully able to deliver at all times. This allowed us to show retailers and tradespeople just how dependable and strong a partner OBO really is.

All this means that we're in a good place and can look towards 2022 with optimism. Sustainability is right at the top of our agenda for next year. And indeed, acting sustainably is far more than a passing trend at OBO. It's something we've been doing for a long time, simply as a matter of course. This means that much of what we do is already sustainable. You can read about some of this here in OBO Blick.

We will continue to build on our digital initiatives as well. OBO began these initiatives early on, which has made it something of a pioneer.



We want to retain this status and keep breaking new ground in the hybrid configurations of digital and personal communication. Of course, it will be interesting to see how personal contact and digital communication function together moving forward. One good opportunity to explore this will be Light + Building, the industry's leading trade fair, which will be held in hybrid form in March. The fair will be an excellent opportunity to resume long-standing contacts and get back to communicating with one another in person. Here at OBO, preparations for Light + Building are already in full swing and we're all very much looking forward to attending and being a part of the fair.

I look forward to welcoming you personally to our OBO stand at Light + Building, or via our digital channels. Until then I wish all of our OBO customers, as well as our employees and colleagues, a happy and peaceful Christmas, and all the best for the coming year – especially good health.

Sustainability is written big at OBO

## SWITCHING TO **REUSABLE PALLETS** FOR TRANSPORTING OUR PRODUCTS

Sustainability is more than just a fleeting concept at OBO. We've always aimed for economic, ecological and social longevity. One of our latest moves has been to switch over completely to reusable pallets for transporting our products.

We have always developed dedicated transport equipment which other companies do not have. This applies to our Euroboxes and to our trough pallets, both of which are important packaging and transport tools on which many supply chains are dependent.

At first, the idea of reusable pallets was slow to catch on with wholesalers and project construction sites. It was the shortage of raw materials caused by the coronavirus pandemic which prompted a rethink.

Pallets became scarce because of rising wood prices, and this impacted the movement of goods in general. **The solution: reusable pallets.** They work using the kind of deposit system familiar in Germany for reusable plastic bottles.

It isn't just the environment which benefits from switching to reusable pallets though. Customers benefit too, in a very practical way, because they no longer have to pay to dispose of the pallets.





More electricity from renewable energy sources

OBO USES  
**100% GREEN ELECTRICITY**  
 AT ITS MENDEN SITE

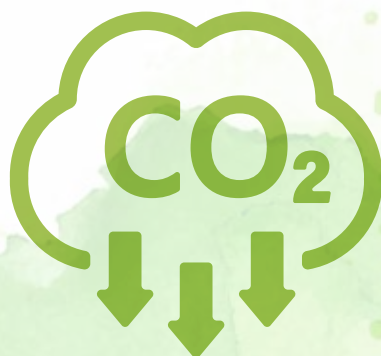


Energy is a major resource in the production of more than 30,000 OBO products. Around 20 million kilowatt-hours of it are used just to power the company's headquarters in Menden each year. At OBO, we know that this kind of demand brings with it a very particular responsibility, which is why we have switched over fully to **100% renewable energy from natural sources**.

By choosing renewable energy sources, OBO has reduced its annual carbon output by 9,800 tonnes. You would have to plant 783,000 beech trees to compensate for that biologically.

The testing agency TÜV Süd checks and certifies that our green electricity comes from where it is supposed to come from. Switching to green power has been another step that OBO has taken towards sustainability.

OBO utilises another environmentally friendly energy source at its Hungarian site in Bugyi, where two photovoltaic systems are now on line, harnessing the power of the sun and powering production facilities.



Carbon emissions  
 reduced by  
**9,800 Tonnes**

# OBO Academy International:

## Carsten Austinat introduces himself as Head of the OBO Academy

The OBO Academy International will be led officially by Carsten Austinat from 1 January 2022 – and he is no stranger to training at OBO.

Many of our customers and staff know him from the popular online seminars he runs together with Patrick Wiggeshoff. In this interview, he told us a bit about his new work and the aims of the OBO Academy International.

**You will officially become the head of OBO Academy International when the new year begins. What is the purpose of an international OBO Academy?**

**Carsten Austinat:** “The OBO Academy International represents a nucleus of knowledge, if you like. We want to give the international OBO subsidiaries the tools they need to run their own training courses. We also want to ensure that we’re all speaking the same language and are able to access the same body of knowledge. That’s why, as part of the OBO Academy, we’re developing international standards that channel and centralise training at OBO.”

**You have been at OBO for four years now and you were involved in training before that. How did you end up in this new position?**

**Carsten Austinat:** “This job is not a new field for me. I ran training courses at my previous employer, a Swedish global corporation. I currently hold the position of training coordinator at our German subsidiary, and together with Patrick Wiggeshoff I run online seminars at the OBO Academy Germany. Moving from being the training coordinator at the German subsidiary up to the group level to establish training there in an international context is very much a logical step from my previous position.”

**So the aim of the OBO Academy International is to create a standardised platform of knowledge and standardised training documents. What are the first steps?**



## “We want to channel and centralise training at OBO.”



**Carsten Austinat:** “We took the first steps in recent months and have already done quite a bit of groundwork. We began by finding out what training was like in the various subsidiaries. Gradually, we built up an overall picture which we can now draw on in order to standardise our documents and create a platform that everyone can access.”

**Aside from standardising training documents, what else does the OBO Academy International aim to achieve?**

**Carsten Austinat:** “Rolling out our seminar management software and webinar software. The aim is for every OBO subsidiary to be able to offer its own online seminars. Last year showed just how much demand there is for that. The online seminars that Patrick Wiggeshoff and I ran for the German subsidiary have been successful in showing the way forward.”

**The editorial team at OBO Blick would like to thank Carsten Austinat for the interview and we wish him all the best at the OBO Academy International.**





# Lights, camera, action!

Video clips showcase the benefits of the WIN series

A new range of flush-mounted and cavity wall boxes have been launched with a major marketing campaign that presents the details and the benefits of the new WIN series to OBO customers as strongly as possible. This campaign includes a series of short videos that have been running on OBO's social media profiles since the campaign began in early October.

## **OBO flush-mounted and cavity wall boxes help you to get home on time!**

The videos clearly illustrate the benefits of OBO flush-mounted and cavity wall boxes. Each video ends with: "Use the OBO one, then you can go home on time" – which is what every tradesperson wants.

Furthermore, the actors in the videos are OBO employees, themselves, no less: Max Dilthey, who is actually a logistics clerk at OBO, and Thomas Korte, who works at OBO Marketing.

The campaign slogan, Pünktlich Feierabend, is a singularly German way of saying you get to go home from work on time (or even early). It doesn't just appear in the closing sequence; its theme recurs throughout the clips – a frustrated tradesman checking the time on his phone, for instance. It's a way of showing exactly how the features of the new OBO flush-mounted and cavity wall boxes save work and time on every building site.

The first videos in the series are already online. **Curious?** Then simply follow the QR code to our OBO YouTube channel.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## NEW OBO FLUSH-MOUNTED AND CAVITY WALL BOXES

Our new flush-mounted and cavity wall boxes have been available since 1st October and they set new standards of efficiency and ease of use, wherever you fit them. Here are some of the highlights of the new **WIN series**.

### FLUSH-MOUNTED BOXES



#### 4x3 screw domes for maximum tolerance compensation

"4x3" is the formula for maximum tolerance compensation in OBO's flush-mounted boxes: four screw domes, each with three holes arranged around the boxes, allow you to align and affix the units accurately every time, even if plastering has not been entirely successful.



#### Star accessory: Quick-Fix

Quick-Fix offers a quick and simple solution whenever you need to fix flush-mounted boxes to a wall without plastering or gluing. It uses special nail straps. The ultimate stability here is created by plaster infiltrating between the stone and the socket.

### CAVITY WALL BOXES



#### More volume: the connection piece on OBO cavity wall boxes

The connection piece on OBO cavity wall boxes is slimly built, giving it around 8% more volume than conventional connection pieces, which means much more space for passing cables from one cavity wall box into another.

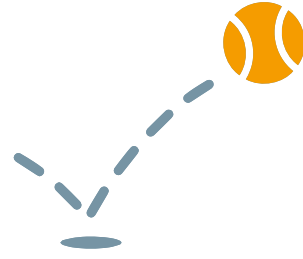
#### Fastening element

The fastening element in OBO's cavity wall box accessories range is ideal for thin panelling such as glass and metal plates. This is simply fastened to the clamping plate of the cavity wallboxes to bridge the gap to the panelling. This means the cavity wall boxes can be used for panelling of 0.2 mm and thicker. The best thing is that whichever variant you use, the fastening element fits through any OBO cavity wall box.

ideal for glass and metal plates



# Game, Set and Match



## OBO sponsors Jan-Lennard Struff and Max Schönhaus

OBO sponsors sports and is supporting these two talented tennis players: **Jan-Lennard Struff**, who is a professional athlete, and **Max Schönhaus**, an up-and-coming young player who's well on his way to becoming a pro. They have known each other for years, because Max Schönhaus was coached by Martina Struff, Jan-Lennard's mother.

### Germany's number two professional tennis player: Jan-Lennard Struff

Jan-Lennard began playing tennis at the age of six – together with his parents, Dieter and Martina, both of whom are professional tennis coaches. The 31-year-old is originally from Warstein in the Sauerland region, not far from OBO's headquarters in Menden. He has been a professional player since 2000 and is now number two in Germany. Struff's biggest success on the **ATP Tour** came in 2014 when he reached three semi-finals. His other major successes include the **BNP Paribas Masters** 2016, where he defeated the reigning US Open champion Stan Wawrinka in the second round; it was the first time he had beaten a top-20 player and reached the third round of an ATP Masters event. He reached the last 16 of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time at the **French Open** in June 2019, the same year in which he reached the final of the **BMW Open**. Jan-Lennard Struff has also been a member of the **German Davis Cup team** since 2015.

Playing ATP tournaments in front of a home crowd means a lot to him, whether in Halle, Hamburg, Stuttgart or Munich. He reached the semi-finals of the 2021 **ATP Cup** together with world number four Alexander Zverev.

He loves team competitions like the Davis Cup, the ATP Cup and the Tennis Bundesliga. As a member of the German team, Jan-Lennard Struff is also a big fan of the Olympics.



## Jan-Lennard Struff

**Up-and-coming star: Max Schönhaus**

Max Schönhaus, who is the son of Torsten Schönhaus, Managing Director of the OBO production company in Germany, has been playing tennis since he was six and was coached by Jan-Lennard's mother Martina Struff from the age of seven. That is the link between these two talented players, who have often exchanged shots across the net. Struff has always been a big role model for Max, so it was a big event when Jan-Lennard invited him to the French Open in 2019 to watch the greats of tennis in the flesh.

Max is now 14 years old and firmly established in **Germany's national U14 team**. He is second in the German Tennis Federation (DTB) rankings and third in the European rankings. He has been playing in European tournaments for the past two years. This year he came third in the singles at the **European U14 Championships** in Most, in the Czech Republic, and he and his doubles partner Justin Engel were runners-up at the European Championships; they came fourth at the **World Championships in Prague** with the German national team. Max's most recent successes include winning the **Junior Masters in Monaco** in October 2021, where he prevailed in a match full of long rallies and spectacular points.



Max  
Schönhaus



As our photo shows, Max Schönhaus and Jan-Lennard Struff have known each other for many years. Max was coached by Martina Struff, Jan-Lennard's mother, from the age of seven. In 2019, Jan-Lennard Struff took him to the French Open.



# Expanding capacity: EXTRUSION AT OUR BÖSPERDE SITE

Orders for cable routing systems have increased so rapidly that OBO had to launch a **capacity expansion project** in the extrusion area at the beginning of 2021. The aim of the project is to increase capacity, make production as flexible as possible and take the pressure off machines that are leading to bottlenecks. According to one projection, the total cable ducting extruded during 2021 was long enough to reach all the way around the equator.

## **Close cooperation between selected suppliers and the OBO equipment design department**

The capacity expansion project includes building another five extrusion lines, extending all the necessary auxiliary aspects and equipment, and renovating the floor. All of the parameters and technical properties required for this had to be identified at the beginning of the project. Working in collaboration with selected suppliers, the machines were then planned on the basis of that data. The tools that were needed were designed and built together with the OBO equipment design department.



## **Renovating the floor marked the start of the project**

The project began with the renovation of the floor. The media duct was extended and drainage channels were installed. The channels were linked to the extended of the refrigeration plant. The largest and most important element of the project was extending the steel structure of the extruder platform and conveyor system. Both elements combined represent the interface with the machines and ensure that materials are conveyed. The existing crane and extraction systems were also extended.

The extended extrusion equipment and machinery is scheduled for commissioning in January 2022.



# Focusing on safety



## OBO equips trucks with turning assistants

OBO takes road safety seriously. Turning assistants warn OBO truck drivers whenever pedestrians or cyclists enter their blind spot. Special sensors detect objects in the areas that are difficult to observe and warn the driver by giving a signal.

From July 2022 onwards, it will be mandatory throughout the EU to have turning assistants for new types of vehicles, and for all new vehicles from July 2024 onwards.

## What exactly is a blind spot?



It's the area next to the vehicle that cannot be seen into, despite outside mirrors. If pedestrians or cyclists are in this area when the truck is turning, the truck driver cannot see them.



# NEW ERP SYSTEM OPTIMISES PROCESSES

## OBO's Director of IT Tobias Wierike on the launch of Infor LN

On 1 January 2022, OBO will be introducing Infor LN, a new ERP system for inventory control and production planning. We interviewed Tobias Wierike, head of IT at OBO, to find out what will be changing and what the benefits of the new system are.

### The new year will begin at OBO IT with the launch of a new ERP system called Infor LN. What exactly is it?

**Tobias Wierike:** "Infor LN is an ERP or enterprise resource planning system for production, procurement, logistics, sales and finance. The systems we currently use at our OBO production companies in Germany and Hungary, AAW and BaaN IV, will be replaced by Infor LN, which combines the functions of both. An ERP system like Infor LN enables us to optimise all of our processes along the chain, from taking in orders, all the way to production."

### What are the benefits of Infor LN?

**Tobias Wierike:** "Infor LN gives us a modern platform with which we can improve our processes by modern means. One of the major benefits is that we can significantly reduce the number of downtimes in the system. This improves collaboration between departments and companies. Infor LN provides us with the technical basis from which to meet the demands caused by increasing globalisation and the steady global growth of OBO. In the next step, working from this foundation, we can also optimise processes and communication with customers, making it easier for them to plan more reliably."

### How long does it take to set up a new system like that at OBO?

**Tobias Wierike:** "We've been busy with Infor LN for the past two and a half years. We launched it at a smaller OBO company initially, to minimise risks and gain some experience. Then we implemented the system at our two big production companies in Germany and Hungary. The next step is to assess and go ahead with more migrations within the OBO Group."



**Tobias Wierike** has been part of the OBO family since 2004 and as Director of IT he has been responsible for OBO's IT infrastructure for almost five years. When he isn't busy launching new software and taking care of data security, he spends time with his family, supports Borussia Dortmund and works as a voluntary fireman.

### What are the process stages involved in implementing a system like Infor LN?

**Tobias Wierike:** "We began by analysing our processes so that we could identify new procedures and optimise existing ones. This involved some coordination between departments and companies. We also defined key users from every area whom we trained in workshops, so that they in turn could train their colleagues in the various departments in how to use Infor LN. These training courses run up to the end of the year, until finally Infor LN is introduced right across the board on 1 January."

### You are Director of IT at OBO. Aside from setting up new software, IT security must be a major theme for you. Can you tell us a bit about OBO's IT security?

**Tobias Wierike:** "We've always invested a lot of energy and money in IT security at OBO. A few years ago we began to put a lot of effort into unifying our IT infrastructure in the various OBO groups. A synchronised structure gives us a lot of transparency, which allows us to identify anomalies very quickly. At the same time, we invested massively in data security in the form of multi-layer back-ups. For all this to happen, IT security has to be taken seriously. I'm very glad to say that our management has been leading by example in this respect for years, making considerable investments in this area and the aim is to continue to do so."

**The OBO Blick editorial team would like to thank Tobias Wierike for the interview.**



# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL

## Professor Jan Meppelink receives lightning protection award

Professor Jan Meppelink has been awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal, which is VDE's highest lightning protection award, for his outstanding services to the technical and scientific development of lightning and surge voltage protection. The Lightning Protection and Lighting Research Committee at VDE (VDE/ABB) presents the Benjamin Franklin Medal to deserving scientists who make outstanding contributions in the field of foundational or applied lightning research and render exceptional services in the field. The award was given online during the 14th VDE Lightning Protection Conference and an appraisal was delivered by Professor Dr.-Ing. Alexander Kern.

Professor Meppelink worked for OBO as a scientific advisor for over 25 years and played a leading role in setting up the BET test laboratory. He also developed certain products and patents for OBO in the field of transient and lightning protection systems, including MCD technology, isCon and isCon-ASE.

### The career of a lightning expert

Professor Meppelink was born in 1950 and studied at the Technical University of Berlin, where he graduated with a degree in electrical engineering. He completed his doctorate there with a dissertation entitled "Breakdown in an inhomogeneous field in air under oscillating lightning surge voltage".

He became responsible for BBC Brown Boverie & Cie Zurich in 1984 and worked throughout the world in the field of high-voltage technology and electromagnetic compatibility. In 1992 the University of Paderborn appointed him Professor of High Voltage Technology at the Soest Faculty. The Soest Faculty later became part of South Westphalia University of Applied Sciences, where Professor Meppelink



researched and taught for 23 years, publishing over a hundred scientific papers in the process.

Even after his retirement in 2015 he has remained in high demand as a problem-solver, preparing expert opinions on cases of damage, contributing his knowledge to national and international committees dedicated to lightning and surge voltage protection, and providing representatives of the media with information in his role as a lightning expert.

### Closely linked to OBO

Professor Meppelink's career is closely linked to OBO. It was his idea to set up OBO's own test laboratory for lightning protection, electrical engineering and load-bearing systems. This

resulted in the BET Lightning Protection and EMC Test Centre, firstly as a limited company in its own right and later as part of OBO.

Working with numerous students from Soest, he has succeeded in establishing an impressive testing institution that is recognised nationally, including amongst OBO's competitors, and in surmounting all of the technical difficulties on the road to establishing a test laboratory.



# News from the subsidiaries

## OBO RUSSIA

### First training courses held in new forum

In the last two issues of OBO Blick we told you about how the new logistics site at OBO Russia has been getting along. Building work on the new complex is complete and the first training participants have already been welcomed to the integrated forum.

OBO presents itself in the new forum as a brand with its three installation areas. It also uses the venue as an ideal place for the regular training of partners in retail and the trades. Five training courses have already been held since September.

Many OBO locations have their own forums, demonstrating just how important it is for OBO to connect closely with its customers. Products in focus that are specific to different countries are presented there so that users can see them, and they are always shown in the various ways they can be mounted, with QR codes included so that visitors can access information about them.



ОБО Беттерманн



# REPLACING THE TANK

## AT THE HOT-DIP GALVANISING PLANT

In May of this year it was time to replace the steel galvanising tank in the hot-dip galvanising plant at OBO Menden-Hüingsen. The walls of this tank get thinner over time because of being in contact with molten zinc, and eventually it needs replacing. The old zinc tank had accommodated 77,000 tonnes of galvanised OBO products over the previous five years.

### How the tank has changed

As the pictures show, changing the tank isn't just an impressive spectacle, it involves considerable effort. A special, patented indoor crane that can carry up to 150 tonnes was used for the first time to remove the old zinc tank.

Once the tank had been lifted out, extensive overhauling work was performed and the galvanising furnace was converted. Not only were four of the ten burner positions modified, special radiation plates were fitted to improve the distribution of heat, which will make the new galvanising tank last longer.

The new zinc tank was then lifted into place and the liquid zinc which had been pumped out beforehand was pumped back into the new one. Once all the rest of the work had been completed, the hot-dip galvanising plant was put back into operation as planned.

### Collaborating successfully to complete the project

The various stages of replacing the tank were performed by external companies, who were actively supported by OBO's own electrical and metalwork fitters and staff at the hot-dip galvanising plant.



## GALVANISING TANK IN FIGURES

**Wall thickness:** 60 mm

**Weight:** 36 Tonnen

**Capacity:** 260 tonnes of zinc

**Temperature of molten zinc:** 450°C

**Galvanising tank replaced:** every 5 to 7 years

**Average time taken to replace tank:** 2 weeks



# Anniversaries

## at our OBO subsidiaries



A number of our international OBO subsidiaries celebrated anniversaries this year. OBO Blick sends its congratulations.

OBO Lithuania, OBO Latvia and OBO Turkey celebrated their 15th anniversaries. Our subsidiaries in Norway, the Netherlands and Bulgaria can look back on no less than 20 years of company history. And OBO Romania celebrated its 25th anniversary.

You can find out more about our various OBO locations and the products they make at the subsidiary websites. Simply visit the international homepage **obo-bettermann.com** to find your way there. Navigate to the different countries and take a trip around the world with OBO!

### Anniversaries at a glance:

# 15

OBO Lithuania  
OBO Latvia  
OBO Turkey

# 20

OBO Norway  
OBO Netherlands  
OBO Bulgaria

# 25

OBO Romania



### CONGRATULATIONS!

#### Former employee Anna Hickert celebrates her 100th birthday

OBO Blick would like to congratulate Mrs Anna Hickert on her **100th birthday**. Mrs Hickert was born on 6 October 1921 and worked for OBO from 1 October 1937 to 24 May 1983. Her last job was in the registry department. She worked for the company for more than 45 years, making her an example of the stable working prospects at the OBO Group of companies. And she herself was part of the company's history.

She was there when "OBO" became part of our brand name in 1952, which was based on the OBO anchor that could be inserted into walls without drilling ("ohne Bohren"), giving the company's innovative spirit a name. She welcomed the OBO Mascot to the company in 1959, got to know three generations of the Bettermann family at the top of the company



*Andreas Bierdermann and Heike Brauckmann of the OBO works' council delivered their personal congratulations to Mrs Hickert on her special day.*

during her career, and witnessed the founding of international subsidiaries and the development of numerous innovative OBO products.

The OBO Blick editorial team wishes Mrs Hickert all the very best for a continued long and happy life.

# OBO TV

*New communication channel  
for the OBO family*

OBO TV is a new digital communication channel for keeping OBO staff up to date. OBO TV features short clips giving viewers insights into a variety of areas within company and providing news from the world of OBO. The format is a bit like a news magazine show, with Carsten Austinat providing entertaining introductions to the various features.

The first episode of OBO TV was broadcast at the beginning of August and OBO staff can watch it on O.BOX, OBO's own intranet. Work on the second episode is now in full swing and it will be broadcast before Christmas. Viewers can once again expect an informative mix of topics from across the company.

In this brief interview, Linus Nicholls, who is responsible for camera work and editing at OBO TV and was involved in developing ideas for the new format, takes us behind the scenes.

**“What we are trying to do is keep you up to date with everything that happens in the OBO Group. This is important because it gives the OBO family even more cohesion.”**

Ulrich L. Bettermann  
Chairman of the Supervisory Board



#### How did the idea for OBO TV come about?

“OBO TV is a new way of responding to the demand for a modern communication channel. We wanted to provide the OBO family with a new way of getting information.”

#### What is your role at OBO TV?

“As Media Manager, I'm responsible for video production at OBO. I've been behind the idea of OBO TV from the outset, all the way to its launch.”

#### How did you make the first episode? How much work went into it?

“The first thing was to find a theme. We began by developing a general concept of what we wanted to present to viewers. We then got in touch with people across the various parts of the company.

Once the themes had been chosen, we wrote the script. Then came the actual filming. But that wasn't the end of it. Afterwards, I edited the various scenes, created some animations and incorporated them.”

#### What was your favourite part of production?

“Taking the drone shots was definitely one of the highlights, as was getting an insight into the various parts of the company.”

# References

International challenges – projects we enjoyed getting stuck into



## Iglo plant at Reken

OBO GR-Magic® stainless steel mesh cable trays supply wet lines with power



Iglo produces frozen vegetables of the highest quality at its plant in Reken in the Münsterland region, Germany. Vegetables and herbs are washed and cleaned by machines thoroughly on what are referred to as “wet lines”. Two of these wet lines were renovated as part of the project presented here. In order to supply them with power and energy while meeting the high hygiene standards of the food industry, OBO provided GR-Magic® stainless steel mesh cable trays mounted on wide span cable ladders.

One of the particular challenges was the distances between the supports and the structure of the roof, which was not allowed to bear any load. Then there was performing the conversion work while production went on in the machines below. But the OBO solutions resolved these challenges to the customer's full satisfaction.

Few industries place such high demands on product quality as the food industry. High hygiene standards have to be complied with throughout. OBO offers comprehensive solutions for every area of food production and only uses materials that meet its hygiene standards. Stainless steel solutions, such as those supplied by OBO for the Iglo site in Reken, are ideal.

# Industrial- installations



## St Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent

OBO supplies floor sockets for the redesigned crypt



Around a million visitors come to see St Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent every year, above all to see the Ghent Altarpiece, a masterpiece of late medieval art which draws visitors from far and wide. The cathedral's crypt is the starting point for a visit to the Ghent Altarpiece and last year it was comprehensively renovated and linked to a newly built visitor centre. This has improved the tour experience for visitors.

OBO's GES R2 round floor sockets were installed in the renovated crypt. Their unique combination of function and design was what allowed OBO to clinch this challenging project.

The round floor sockets of the GES R2 series deliver power and data exactly where they're needed. With a high load capacity and plenty of versatility, they were the ideal solution for the crypt at St Bavo's Cathedral. These floor sockets are stunningly designed and enhance even the highest-quality floor surfaces. Little wonder that they have been used worldwide for decades. GES R2 floor sockets are available in various materials and designs. The crypt at Ghent's St. Bavo's Cathedral features the die-cast zinc variant, some with tube bodies and some with hinged covers.



# Building- installations



## Zero 1 Metro market, St. Pölten

OBO products installed in Austria's first emission-free hypermarket

The hypermarket chain Metro built a new store in St. Pölten and it was its first ever zero emissions building – the Zero 1. It features outstanding material ecology, energy efficiency and sustainable architecture. The building has been rated Outstanding under the international BREEAM standard. BREEAM stands for “Building Research Establishment’s Environmental Assessment Method” and is a well-known certification system for sustainable construction. Only 2% of buildings certified anywhere in the world achieve the Outstanding rating.

OBO contributed to this sustainable project with products from its cable support and underfloor systems and

supplied RKS-Magic® cable trays and UDHOME4 floor boxes for the Metro market in St. Pölten. Both products were chosen on account of their technical benefits and have been installed throughout the store.

Designed strictly around the daily needs of fitters, RKS-Magic® offers numerous practical benefits with its innovative plug-in system. Thanks to their elegant, inconspicuous design, UDHOME floor boxes and sockets blend seamlessly into interior architecture. The UDHOME floor box offers maximum flexibility and can be fitted with sockets, data connection modules and multimedia connections.



# Building- installations



## Annie Cordy Tunnel in Brussels

Renovating Belgium's longest road tunnel

When the longest car tunnel in Belgium was renovated, OBO supplied cable trays and installation accessories. Formerly known as the Leopold II Tunnel, the Annie Cordy Tunnel has a total length of 2.5 kilometres and is used daily by 40,000 of Brussels' commuters and locals. It was built in 1986 and connects the Koekelberg Basilica with the Brussels inner ring road.

MKS-Magic® cable trays, Grip cable ties, MS50 mounting rails, US 5 supports and US 7 wall and support brackets were installed in the tunnel during its renovation. OBO won the project mainly because of the quality and service life of its products. A special type of galvanising protects them against harsh ambient conditions.



# Industrial- installations



# Highlights from our installation areas



## UDHOME-ONE floor socket

The smallest and most sustainable member of the UDHOME product family

UDHOME floor boxes and sockets bring power and data exactly where they are needed. UDHOME-ONE is the latest and also the smallest member of this product family.

The UDHOME-ONE floor socket can be integrated into floors with a minimum of space, thanks to its outer dimensions of 140 x 140 mm and low minimum installation depth of 75 mm. It also has a high load capacity of up to 15 kN on large areas and 3 kN on small areas.

### Flexible and certified

UDHOME-ONE is especially flexible and can be equipped with either one data and one power connection or two power connections. Power is connected using OBO's own Modul 45® series. Another special feature is that the cover can be closed even when a plug is inserted. The smallest floor socket in the UDHOME family separates power and data without difficulty and is certified by VDE accordingly.

### Two types of lid to satisfy different requirements

OBO underfloor systems focus equally on maximum functionality and the highest design standards. The UDHOME-ONE has two different kinds of lid which can be replaced easily at any time to fulfil aesthetic requirements. The lid is available with a floor covering recess (15 mm) and with a decorative panel. It doesn't matter which of the two lids is used; the height of the floor socket outlet does not have to be adjusted or recalibrated. Cables and wires are led out through a cord outlet in the lid.

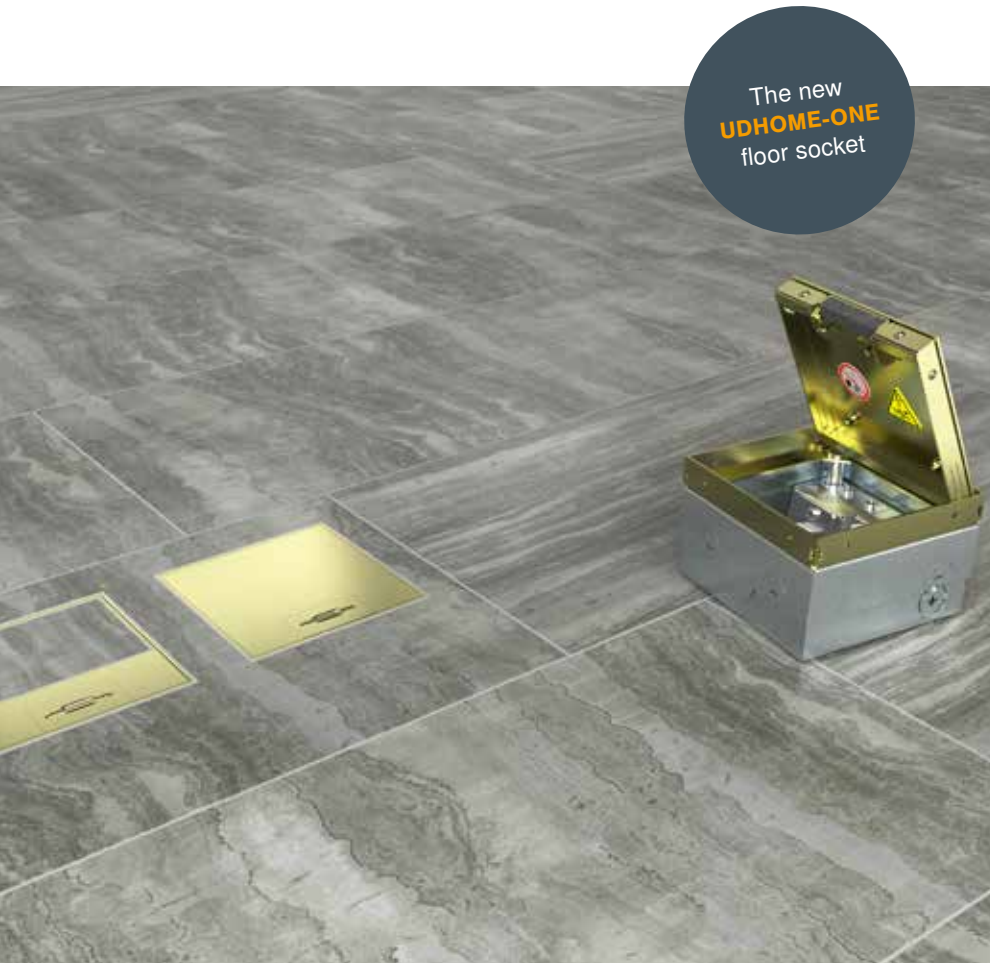
UDHOME-ONE is available in stainless steel and brass, and its two pre-mounted device supports are stainless steel in both versions.

### Sustainable and durable

The UDHOME-ONE is great for sustainability too. Its low installation depth allows it to be fitted in shallow screeds, which enables more efficient heating, since an underfloor heating system with thin screed heats the floor quicker and therefore saves energy. The UDHOME-ONE's packaging is also eco-friendly, because it uses only paper and cardboard, with no polystyrene whatsoever.

Another key characteristic of the UDHOME-ONE is its durability. It can easily remain installed for a building's entire life.

The new  
**UDHOME-ONE**  
floor socket



# Christmas traditions

## at international OBO subsidiaries

- How do you celebrate Christmas? This is what we asked our OBO subsidiaries, and you may have explored some of the answers on our Anniversaries page. Typical Christmas traditions in the various countries can range from drawing straws to folk theatre performances involving burning oak beams. Read on to find out more...



### Vrolijk Kerstfeest Christmas in the Netherlands

The Christmas season starts on 6 December for our neighbours in the Netherlands, because, according to legend, Sinterklaas (who closely resembles Father Christmas) is in the country up until that point. He arrives by ship from Spain and is accompanied by his helpers, the “Zwarte Piets”. Together they distribute presents to children on 5 December.

Christmas trees are put up from 6 December onwards and the Christmas season begins. As 24 December has less significance than it does in Germany, families might go to church or watch Christmas programmes on TV, but they only serve Christmas dinner on 25 or 26 December. Christmas stollen belongs on the festive menu in the Netherlands as it does in Germany, but there it is filled with spijs, a special kind of almond paste.

And how do our colleagues at OBO Netherlands celebrate? They crown the Christmas season by eating together. This is organised by a different member of staff each year and the evening is held in the region where that person comes from. Last year, the team went to Amsterdam, where they took a tour of the city and visited the Nord-Zuid-Lijn, a major OBO Netherlands reference project. They then went to a typical Amsterdam bar, where the team sang old Dutch songs accompanied by an accordion player. This year's outing will be to the Friesland region, but what exactly they will be doing there remains a surprise!



### linksmų Kalėdų Christmas in Lithuania

Kūčios is a big family feast held on Christmas Eve in Lithuania. The table is decked out with hay and a white linen tablecloth. The hay symbolises the birth of Jesus in the stable. The table is also decorated with candles and small branches or fir twigs. The Kūčios meal itself consists of twelve courses – one for each of the twelve apostles. None of these courses contains meat. Instead they serve fish, vegetables, salad, fruit, mushrooms, porridge made from grains, herring salad, beetroot soup, nuts, stewed fruit, pastries and bread.

Christmas in Lithuania always involves a bit of magic and a little superstition. A favourite game after eating is drawing straws, by which, it is said, the future can be divined, rather like in Germany's lead-pouring tradition. A long straw means a long life, a short straw means a short life and a wide straw promises a rich, happy life.

A special place is reserved at Lithuanian Christmas tables for deceased family members because some believe that the deceased visit their families on Christmas Eve. The table is not cleared away following the meal either, so that the deceased have ample opportunity to serve themselves afterwards.



## Crăciun fericit Christmas in Romania

One of the most popular Christmas traditions in Romania is singing. Romanian carols have various origins: the Byzantine Orthodox world, the Catholic church and Romanian culture. Carol singers go from house to house on Christmas Day. Carrying stars in their hands, they recite poems and songs. Folklore theatre and dances such as the Călușari are performed. But be sure to open the door to them, otherwise it is said you will be in for an unhappy year.

Christmas traditions can differ from region to region in Romania. In Maramures in the north, adults join the children in singing. They are welcomed with cozonac, a traditional Romanian cake, and sarmale, traditional stuffed cabbage leaves filled with meat or small strips of ham, and a glass of wine. The carol singers go from house to house performing steaua and capra, which are traditional dances done in folklore costumes.

In the Banat region, carol singers carry a stick made of hazelnut wood, which is set alight using a candle. They then knock upon the floor of the house with the stick to drive away evil spirits.

You need patience on Christmas Eve in Moldova, because you are not allowed to start eating until the village priest has blessed the food. He may then sample the food, and after him, the whole family can tuck in.

If you want to get rid of some of your worries and sins at Christmastime, you wash your face with water and a silver coin on Christmas morning. This makes you clean and pure like silver and everything you want to let go of is washed down the drain.

These are some of the typical Romanian Christmas traditions alongside those we know from Germany – like decorating Christmas trees, exchanging Christmas presents, hanging mistletoe and sharing a festive meal with the family.



## Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus Christmas in Latvia

Christmas in Latvia is marked by numerous Christian and pagan traditions. It is customary, for instance, to drag an oak beam from house to house on Christmas Eve and burn it in the last yard to banish evil. Another tradition is Budēli: dressed as animals, the sun, or even death, people move through the neighbourhood, singing and dancing together. Again, this tradition is designed to drive away evil spirits.

As in other countries, people decorate their houses and put up Christmas trees, which, in Latvia, are often decorated with straw stars and dried flowers. Like their Baltic neighbours the Lithuanians, Christmas dinner for the Latvians involves many different courses. In Latvia a total of nine courses are designed to bring a happy and abundant new year.





# OBO SUPPORT and contacts

You can reach customer services on:

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**Friday**  
7.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**info@obo.de**



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Merry Christmas!

С Рождеством! Joyeux Noël!

Frohe Weihnachten!

Boldog Karácsonyt!



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