

Magirus now operating world's most unique pump test bench

Innovative system with underground well allows realistic testing and much faster test implementation / Investment volume ca. 1.6 million euros / System available to customers as of February 2016

Ulm, 21 January 2016

Just in time for the new year, Magirus has commissioned the last part of its new production and customer centre for fire protection technology in Ulm. At an on-site press conference today, Thursday, 21 January, the company announced that a new, one-of-a-kind pump test bench is now available at its Ulm location. The system has an underground well, five dome shafts and a tank with a 100,000-litre capacity. It was sunk into the ground over ten metres deep using a complex procedure usually reserved for constructing underground car parks.

The test bench is equipped with a total of four test routes to select from, depending on the desired performance per litre. The investment volume of the innovative system is circa 1.6 million euros. With this, Magirus completes its test mile for pumper and tank pumper. In addition to the new pump test bench, the company also provides a tipping test bench, a foam practice route, a cable winch test bench and a track system for railroad vehicles on its circa 321,000 square metre premises. The total costs for conversion of the site – which houses all corporate areas, from research and development to manufacturing, administration and software programming all the way to acceptance and auditing – were around 35 million euros.

Magirus will now test all of its new vehicles with the innovative pump test bench. Starting February 2016, the equipment will also be available to customers who wish to test their own fire-fighting vehicles. After a short introduction by Magirus personnel, they can test and re-calibrate their vehicles under realistic conditions – such as drawing water from ponds or other open bodies of water. The Magirus test system, however, is not simply a typical vacuum test bench, but a real suction well. It is the only one of its kind in the world and was developed together with Fladt Engineering GmbH.

The difference? Compared to conventional underground wells in which great amounts of water must circulate from reservoir to reservoir to change the water level, the Magirus system uses dome shafts. To vary the water level and thus the suction depth, only the significantly lower volume of water in the dome shafts must be pumped into an aboveground buffer tank, or water from this buffer tank drained into the dome shafts. This gives Magirus a crucial competitive advantage: significantly faster vehicle testing. In addition, the system exceeds the storage capacity of a conventional underground well by far and saves on construction costs compared to systems with two water reservoirs.

In the low pressure range, tests with flow rates of up to 17,000 litres per minute can be performed; in the high pressure range, with flow rates of up to 800 litres per minute (maximal 100 bar). The fill level is continuously monitored during operation with state-of-the-art electronics and automatically adjusted if necessary. The system can be operated directly from a vehicle via tablet or from an office at the test bench. All data are digitally recorded and can be analysed live or at any subsequent time. The pump curve as well as all other tests are automatically executed and recorded.

A small measuring route in an adjacent hall was built for customer training purposes. This allows fire-fighters to thoroughly test the operation of their vehicles in a warm, dry area.

About Magirus

Passion and precision, high-tech and craftsmanship. Since 1864, Magirus has stood for the combination between innovation and tradition – to assist fire-fighters throughout the world. With a comprehensive range of the most modern and reliable fire engines, turntable ladders, rescue and equipment vehicles, special solutions, pumps and portable pumps, Magirus is known throughout the world as one of the largest and technologically leading providers of fire-fighting and disaster control technology.

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