



Valves and pipework – Kieselmann specialties and a typical tank top with its cover removed.



Keeping everything flowing...

...a look at Kieselmann in Germany



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Some years ago, few outside Germany would have heard of Kieselmann. Recently we have seen its stands at Manchester, SIBA at Stratford and at the Glasgow EBC. Clearly this valve, pipe and process company is flexing its muscles so the Editor went along to its manufacturing plant in Germany to find out more.

by **Roger Putman**

Kieselmann makes every sort of valve a brewer or distiller could ever need, puts them together to form tank top units including the spray head, connects them into increasingly complex manifolds and now has a distinctive control head housing for its automated valves so that the work of the Knittlingen factory stands out even more. It will

make distribution panels, pipe fences and has an innovative pigging concept to clear mains of liquids. If you want a turnkey project for perhaps a complete CIP or flash pasteurisation system then Kieselmann can supply.

There are sight glasses with LED illumination which will easily shine through stout without any burn-on, instrument housings, unions, clamps, flanges, bends, tees and reducers and over 200km of stainless steel pipe, rod, flat and angle in stock. Pipes range from DN6 up to DN300 in 6m lengths, a price list is issued monthly such is the volatility of charges in this commodity sector. Kieselmann also stocks imperial sizes so that unsightly reducers as old lines are extended are not needed. I quickly concluded that there was very little that these guys did not know about stainless steel.

All is European in origin, we cannot say all German as most tube is made either in France or Italy these days, but we can say that all the working from chunks of metal, some 6,000 tonnes a year is carried

out at Knittlingen, the only place in Germany still making unions and nuts. There is a Chinese division under a Doemens trained brewmaster in Beijing but they assemble the German made products into manifolds and the like to save on bulky transport all the way from Germany. There is also a UK subsidiary based at the euphonious Upper Snodsbury in Worcestershire, a JV in India but all other countries deal through associates like Denwel in the Czech Republic and Centec in the United States.

Founded in 1937

The firm was founded by Paul Kieselmann back in 1937 in the garage at his home which still stands at the bottom of the road opposite the modern 32,000m² factory. Knittlingen lies some 50km north west of Stuttgart and closer to Karlsruhe. This is the cradle of German technology with Bosch, Mercedes, Audi, Porsche and other famous names like Ziemann located in the area with Schmidt heat exchangers being made just two

