

Revival of vinyl boosts GZ Media

CZECH COMPANY GRAMOFONOVÉ ZÁVODY PRESSED ITS FIRST VINYL RECORDS BACK IN 1951 AND TODAY, AS GZ MEDIA A.S., IT PRINTS ROUGHLY 65,000 LP'S PER DAY AND IS THE LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF VINYL RECORDS IN THE WORLD.

The demand for vinyl records has gone up by millions every year since the revival of the LP, which started around 2007. GZ has the rights to records of for example the Rolling Stones, U2, and today's stars like Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga - with many vinyl buyers being even too young to remember vinyl as the primary music format. It has contracts for example with record companies like Universal and Sony Music.

Before this revival, GZ Media was one of the last vinyl production companies in Europe. Moving with times, the company also started producing CDs, DVDs, Blue-ray discs and is the most comprehensive provider of printing services for paper and cardboard packaging in the Czech Republic.

Extension due to growing demand

Catering to growing sales, a central warehouse for paper products in their factory in Loděnice was successfully put into trial operation this summer. The warehouse - an extension of the existing industrial complex - is part of the framework agreement of Tebodin with GZ Media, made in 2012. The first project in this contract was the realization of their 12,000 m² completion center that has been put into operation in 2012.



GZ Media's Quality and Operations Director Mr. Zdeněk Dupač explains: 'We still see a steady growth in both vinyl as well as the printing division, hence this extension project. As far as vinyl goes, we will produce 25 million records this year, a 40% increase on 2015 figures - far more than competitors in Germany and the US. The demand we are seeing now, after the near-death of vinyl, is truly amazing.'

Good neighbors

The new central warehouse in Loděnice greatly simplifies processes at the plant, holding paper products to be continuously delivered to the assembly line. In the old situation, the logistics of receipt, storage and dispatch of paper was complicated, uneconomical and noisy. Tebodin Project Manager Vlastimil Hrouda: 'It was our job to inform and convince neighbors living nearby that this project would improve their environment, reducing the noise significantly, especially at night. The new warehouse includes a covered corridor for transport of paper products directly into the completion area, with optimal connection of technologies and structures. Besides executing basic design, our team prepared and received all permits.' ■