



80 years of partnership

Stick together like glue: TÜRmerleim and BASF celebrate anniversary

In October 1945, representatives from BASF and TÜRmerleim held their first joint meeting. Ludwigshafen/DE was still in ruins at that time. The city was scarred by the war, production facilities were destroyed, and resources scarce. And yet, it was precisely during that time that something lasting was born: a partnership that continues to this day. It is built on trust, a pioneering spirit, and the shared ambition to make things better – for customers, for applications, and for wood as a material.

“Back then, glue was still sold in cans. It was used for non-load-bearing applications, far from what we define as timber construction today,” Dr. Jens Aßmann, Vice President Business Management Ammonia Value Chain & Operations Amino Resins at BASF, explains. And yet, it was clear early on that when people pool their chemical expertise and application-related know-how, they create more than just a product. They create a solution.

Already in 1929, BASF had reached a milestone with the invention of Kaurit glue. This was followed by the first adhesive production facility in 1931. “After the war, in 1952, production was restructured – a clear sign of entrepreneurial courage in a time of great uncertainty,” Aßmann says. From the very beginning, TÜRmerleim brought to the table what remains its hallmark to this day: close customer relation-

ships, a deep understanding of wood and its processing, and the ability to translate chemistry into real-world applications.

Division of tasks that connects

The roles were clear – and remain so to this day: BASF develops and produces the chemical base, while TÜRmerleim brings it to where it is needed – to factories, to the machines, and into the hands of users. This division of tasks is a collaborative effort – because true innovation is based on dialogue.

“We are on-site with our customers, see what they need, and pass that information on to our colleagues at BASF,” Dr. Thomas Pfeiffer, Managing Director of TÜRmerleim, says. This type of feedback management ensures that developments don’t end in the laboratory, but



In 1945, BASF and TÜRmerleim held the first meetings about the joint marketing of adhesives



TÜRmerleim brings the adhesives to factories, to the machines, and into the hands of users

stand the test in practice. This way, speed, practicality, and reliability become shared values.

Adhesives are changing timber construction

A prime example of this collaboration is the development of the Kauramin 690 adhesive. A surface adhesive whose versatility surprised even the developers. It had just been launched on the market, and customers already used it for applications across a range that no one had previously thought of.

“Without modern adhesive systems, timber construction with its current performance would not be possible,” Pfeiffer emphasizes. “They also contributed to the development of timber construction. Today, it is no longer limited to two stories. Projects have grown vertically thanks to hybrid construction methods, cross-laminated timber, and large-format load-bearing structures,” Pfeiffer adds. And at the heart of it all is an inconspicuous but essential component – the adhesive.

From product to relationship

What truly makes this partnership special, is not just the products or milestones, but the people behind them. Personal relationships have developed over decades – characterized by trust, openness, and the certainty that the two companies can rely on each other. The customer is always at the heart of this collaboration, and their needs guide the process.

Responsible innovation

Timber construction has undergone a rapid development in recent decades. New adhesive systems such as polyurethanes have been introduced, applications have become more complex, and requirements for sustainability and performance are ever more demanding. For several years now, TÜRmerleim has also been distributing BASF’s Elastan adhesive line for load-bearing applications – another step towards the future.

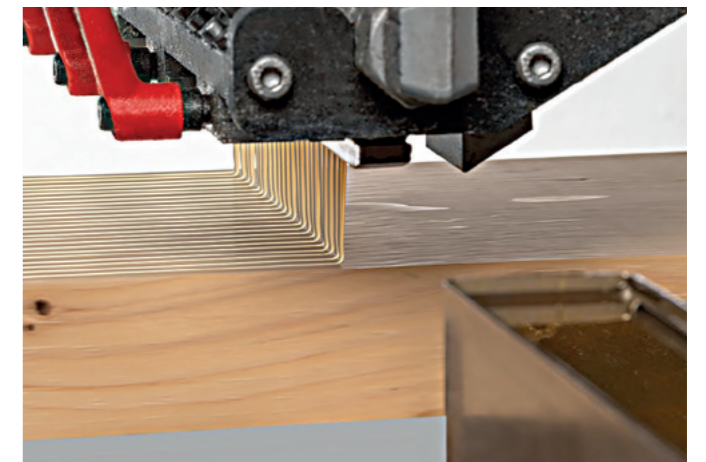
There is one constant, though: The customer is at the heart of everything. Innovation is not an end in itself, but a response to real-life challenges. This is precisely where the strength of this partnership lies, as it combines a long-term perspective with operational proximity to the market.

Today, 80 years after the first meetings, both companies proudly look back on their achievements. Both are firmly rooted in the region, both take responsibility as employers, and both share values such as reliability, respect, and a drive to grow and create.

“What began 80 years ago will continue into the future,” Aßmann says. This statement is more than just an anniversary slogan. It is a promise – of innovation, of partnership, and of the power to bring things together. “Because when things truly fit together perfectly, something lasting is created,” Pfeiffer adds. //



For 80 years, the teams of BASF and TÜRmerleim have worked together successfully, each with their clearly defined responsibilities



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The industrial production of adhesives and impregnating resins has been an important part of BASF’s ammonia value chain at its Ludwigshafen site since 1952

