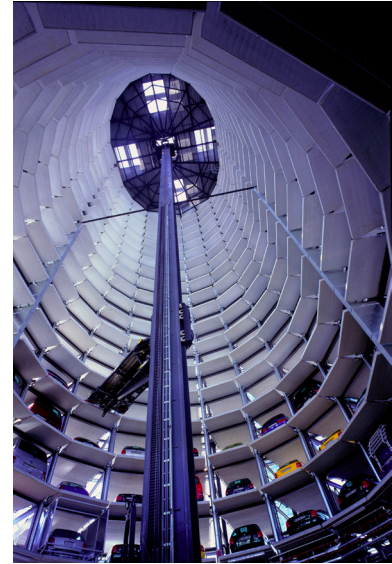


Parking in the 21st Century (Newspaper Article)

by Simon Kaminski / Augsburg Newspaper (10.09.2009)

Gersthofen - The Pictures went around the world: As the landmark of the new „Autostadt“ Volkswagen presented two colourful lighted Towers, which are state of the art. In each of the two 50 meter high Cylinders out of Steel and glass 400 brand-new Cars are waiting for their new Owner. By only pushing a button the required vehicle can be chosen and as if it is magic they are standing in front of the customer after only a short time. In fact magic is not the reason why this happens, only hard and solid work „made in Gersthofen“: The core of the Glass-Cylinders, the automated parking system, has been developed and realized by PALIS® Parking Technologies GmbH. „Later on, we even had to develop a Person Lift for the Project, so high was the desire to see the machine in action closer“, CEO Hubert Kugelmann remembers. (see PALIS® UPDATE July 2007)



The story began with an Idea. The Inventor Alfred Colsman, born 1929, was into the question how automatic parking systems could work not only more reliable, but also more efficient.

In the early 90s, it was standard that the cars were transported to the designated parking space on a steel pallet. Colsman, today's president of the company, had a different approach. A so-called Transporter with a Lift-System, jockeys the vehicles into the parking lots - completely without pallets. „With this way, a lot of expensive steel is saved. Our System is superior especially in bigger projects in urban areas.“ Kugelmann emphasizes.

When the company was founded in 1993 the company had only this palletless parking system patent of Mr. Colsman and it took some time to develop this idea and to find the first customer. Kugelmann: „It is essential to have a reference and to be able to demonstrate how reliable such a system can work in daily operation.“ With a lot of convincing and a small but accomplished team, PALIS managed to break into the Market. 1996 the „Messmer-Haus“ office building in Frankfurt was developed, equipped with a automatic parking system from Gersthofen. And even better: The System was working almost free of defects from the very first day. Especially this is extremely important because a automatic parking garage which does not work properly is a logistical nightmare. „Redundancy“ is the keyword which Project planner Alexander Reader mentions, as he explains why Palis-Systems are less susceptible to errors. In technical language this expressions means that components which are essential for the system operation are existing twice.

„Our team is trying to consequently think ahead of things which could go wrong, in order to instantly erase possible sources of error“, Kugelmann explains. In the inhouse factory, not only parts are manufactured but also elements are developed which are then produced by partners in the region.



Palis-Clients on the other hand can already be found all over the world. Currently gigantic parking Facilities with 1700 and 1900 Car Spaces in India and China are planned.



„Our Advantage: Where the price for land is high, our concept is very attractive. With a reduction in required space of 50%, we can accommodate the same amount of cars as in conventional parking garages.“, states Kugelmann.