

# Forster Profile Systems

150 years at  
the pulse of time



**forster**



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*Church of Saint Christophe, France  
forster thermfix light  
Image: Nathalie Plouvier*



## Editorial

# From Romanshorn into the world

Steel is our nature – and has been for the last 150 years. For us, building with steel means building for the future. Like almost no other material, steel combines timeless design with durability and recyclability. Our aim is to make living spaces and buildings safe, attractive and pleasant for the people who live and work in them. Especially in these times of advancing climate change and economic challenges, sustainable architectural solutions are more in demand than ever.

As a steel processing company, it is all the more important for us not only to develop suitable products, but also to lead by example in everything we do. For example, we have set ourselves the ambitious goal of reducing our carbon emissions by 2030. With the commissioning of the Forster Campus in Romanshorn, the course has now been set. We are very proud that our new headquarters is the first industrial complex in Switzerland to achieve LEED “Gold” certification and even “Platinum” for the office building. This achievement is proof that we can all make a contribution to a sustainable future if we want to. And this investment will benefit us all as it lays the foundation for a sustainable future in construction. Every year, thousands of kilometres of Forster steel profiles are produced in the new plant, inspected for quality and shipped from here to numerous countries in order to make their contribution to resource-saving construction methods for sustainable buildings.

I wish you lots of inspiration and positive thoughts as you read.

Best regards,  
Willi Lüchinger  
and the Forster team

# Forster Profile Systems

## “Swiss made”

### at home around the world

Produced in Switzerland, distributed worldwide: For us, the Forster Campus in Romanshorn is a clear commitment to Switzerland as a business location. Our company has been based on the shore of Lake Constance since 1874. We started out as a coppersmith, but with over 100 years of experience in developing and manufacturing steel profiles, we have developed into a full-service provider for windows, doors and facades. Our portfolio combines design, safety and energy efficiency – a commitment that our more than 320 employees in 34 countries pursue every day with passion in a wide variety of architectural projects.

With an export share of more than 70%, our network has a global reach. Whether through our own sales companies in Europe or distribution partners and agencies with their own Forster sales staff in Asia, the Middle East and America – we always focus on geographical proximity to our partners and their projects. Our technical consultants are on hand as expert sparring partners for architects and planners as well as metal construction companies and provide support in creating customised designs and selecting optimum systems. Our expert team also provides support with detailed documentation and practical digital tools.



*Forster Campus, our headquarters  
in Romanshorn, Switzerland – built in 2023/2024  
Image: Thomas Hary*

# Forster Profile Systems

## Facts & figures

Headquarters in  
Romanshorn, Switzerland  
Founded in 1874  
by Franz-Josef Forster



Development of different  
systems and the production  
of system profiles in  
Switzerland



2024: 150th  
anniversary



100 years of experience  
in the development and  
production of steel profiles



Number of employees  
Headquarters: 130  
Worldwide: 320



Active in 34 countries



Distribution partners  
in over 30 countries



Own sales companies  
In Switzerland, Germany,  
Austria, France,  
Belgium, United Kingdom,  
Italy, Portugal and  
the Netherlands



Offices with own  
sales employees in  
China, the Middle East,  
North America, Sweden  
and Turkey



Export share: approx. 70%



# Forster Profile Systems

## Voices from the management

“We aim for long-term, stable growth with above-average profitability based on resource-efficient and sustainable practices. With our new Campus and our innovative and environmentally friendly products, we are well on the way to reducing our carbon emissions in the coming years.”

Willi Lüchinger  
CEO

“We take a holistic design approach and ensure the recyclability of materials for products and required packaging as early as the planning phase.”

Markus Nagel  
Head of Product Management

“Our Forster Campus offers a contemporary working environment and stands for our special responsibility – both regionally and internationally.”

Selina Ramstöck  
Head of HR

“The use of “low carbon emission steel” is an important part of our agenda for achieving the Scope 3-objectives.”

Luca Carlet  
Head of Purchasing

“Our systems offer all the requirements for achieving the highest building certifications for new and old buildings.”

Dr Holger Basche  
CTO

## Company history

### From coppersmith to international player

The history of Forster begins in 1874 with the founding of a coppersmith in Arbon by Franz-Josef Forster. Initially, pans, metal hot water bottles and other items are produced in the shop. Gradually, the small metalworking and installation company began experimenting with steel and eventually set up a welded steel tubing shop. From 1915, welded steel pipes were being produced. A short time later, the sole proprietorship became the newly founded Hermann Forster AG.



*Breitehof 1, Arbon, Switzerland, ca. 1920*



*Forster building, 1933*

Over the years, the small business on the shore of Lake Constance has become a globally active company that specialises among other things in the manufacture of window, door and façade systems, among other things, and has continuously developed and perfected this. Around 100 years after its foundation, Forster launches the world's first thermally insulated window system made from steel profiles in 1975. Since then, we at Forster have been continuously developing the expertise we have gained over decades and offer a wide range of high-quality architectural solutions made from steel and stainless steel.

Since 2018, Forster Profile Systems has been part of the Belgian Reynaers Group, a specialist in innovative and sustainable aluminium solutions for windows, doors and façades. As part of an owner-managed family business, Forster benefits from a high degree of flexibility and short decision-making processes, which we see as the basis of our long-term and sustainable business success. We can already see the fruits of this with the 150th anniversary of the company, when we are also inaugurating the Forster Campus.

Around 10 kilometres away from the former headquarters in Arbon, all employees are now united in a state-of-the-art building complex in Romanshorn. This means that the entire value chain remains where Franz-Josef Forster started it 150 years ago with reliability, quality awareness, precision, efficiency, safety and innovation. We are proud to continue this tradition at the new Forster Campus.



## Our values

### Together for better.

“Together for better” - this guiding principle unites us at Forster. It determines our daily actions and shapes our collaboration with our customers and partners. Our aim is to work together to make living spaces and buildings safe, attractive and pleasant for the people who live and work in them. We are convinced that together we can create the best for people and the environment.

In a constantly changing world, we demonstrate courage, innovation and a pioneering spirit, passion and drive to shape the future together responsibly and creatively.

#### Daring

**We challenge the status quo and don't sit still.**

We are creative and innovative, growing every day by listening and being open to feedback. We think proactively and continuously improve.

#### Caring

**We care for our colleagues, partners, suppliers, society, and planet.**

We build on our mutual understanding, with every cooperation based on respect. Plus, we also feel responsible for future generations.



## Passionate

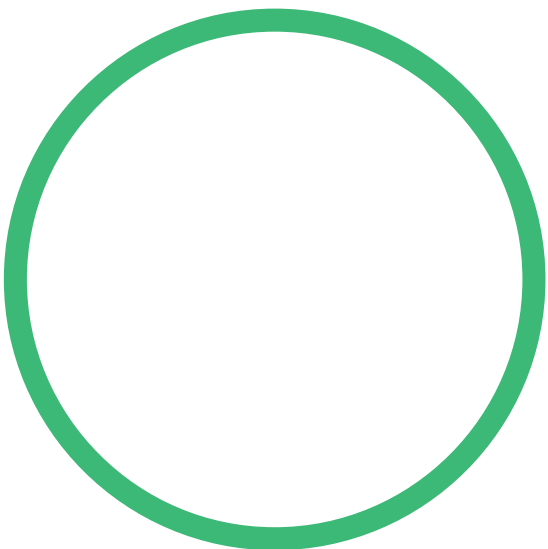
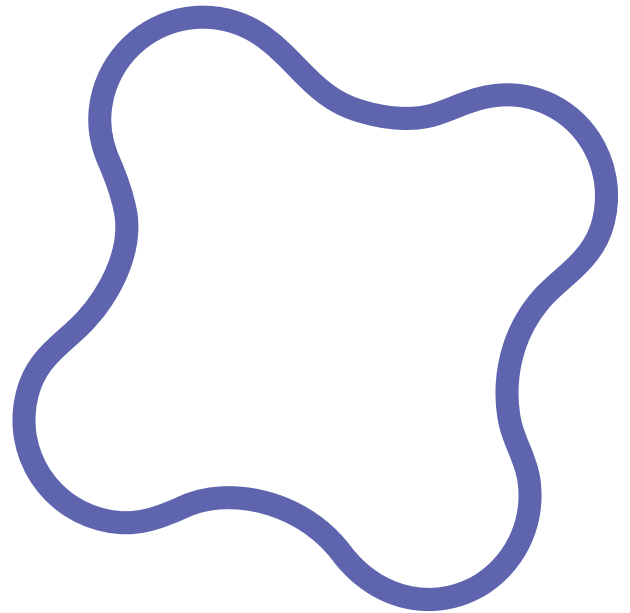
**We are full of energy.**

We put our ideas into practice with enthusiasm and optimism. We set ourselves ambitious goals, because we know that our work counts and we inspire others.

## Together

**We are convinced that we are most successful together.**

We build strong relationships and work as a team. Together, we achieve our goals.





*Mauritiusheim Schötz, Switzerland  
forster fuego light and thermfix vario  
Image: Damian Poffet*

## Our goals

### What we aim to achieve

The Forster brand already stands for excellent, high-quality system solutions made from steel and stainless steel that are unique in environmentally friendly construction. But we want to become the number one in our niche worldwide. We see the basis for this in the expertise and reliability, mutual trust and innovative strength of our employees, customers and partners.

As part of a family business with short decision-making processes, we are able to adapt our processes flexibly to changing market and customer requirements thanks to our proximity to the market. We strive for long-term, stable growth with above-average profitability based on resource-conserving and sustainable action. To achieve this, we want to reduce our carbon emissions by 2030.

Together with our highly qualified, motivated and loyal employees, to whom we offer long-term and exciting working relationships with prospects, we want to improve people's living and working environment, today and for future generations.

We want nothing less than customers who are enthusiastic about us. That is why we continue to focus on technical innovation, streamlined processes and an efficient organisation, so that our steel systems continue to impress in the future with their architectural expressiveness, the highest safety requirements and unparalleled environmental awareness.

## Our sustainability efforts

### The environment on the schedule: The Green Agenda

As a Swiss company, we have always been synonymous with nature and quality. For us at Forster, this means: we want to achieve our ambitious goals in harmony with the environment and to contribute to improving living conditions for everyone. We therefore see sustainability as a holistic approach which shapes everything we do.

With the Green Agenda, we have launched a programme which enables us to become increasingly environmentally friendly, both on a large and a small scale. In order to be able to develop systematically, we have defined four fields of action. These are all geared towards the goal of contributing to improving everyone's living conditions.

- Environmentally-friendly production
- Circular solutions
- Sustainable buildings
- Social responsibility

As a company with regional roots, we offer our employees a place where they can cooperate effectively as well as grow together. This requires both safe and particularly attractive working conditions – such as those found in our “Feel Good Factory” in Romanshorn in an appealing architectural setting.





*Jardin Minorelle, France*  
*forster presto*  
*Image: Eribel*



Image: Forster Profile Systems

## Our sustainability efforts

### Ecological planning with Forster

We have set ourselves the goal of reducing our carbon emissions by 2030 and thus making our contribution to climate protection. We have already laid the groundwork for this today. The Forster Campus in Romanshorn, Thurgau is the first industrial complex in Switzerland to receive the internationally recognised LEED certification at level “Gold” and for the office building even level “Platinum” for particularly sustainable buildings. Just by generating 100% of independent electricity using solar collectors on the roofs of the Forster Campus, we have come much closer to our targets for reducing direct emissions.

With the Forster Campus, we have created a sustainable location that we also want to use to inspire. Because the climate crisis shows us that the time for environmentally friendly construction is more urgent than ever. Building certifications such as Minergie in Switzerland or international environmental labels such as LEED and BREEAM indicate what is important. At Forster, we have the technical expertise to provide planning offices and building owners with the best possible advice on the systems to be used in their projects.

We also provide all those involved in the value chain with the information they need to calculate the carbon footprint of a building and conduct life cycle analyses. One example of this is EPDs (Environmental Product Declaration) with the data on material components, the environmental footprint, recyclability and the service life of our systems.

# Architectural solutions with an eye on the future.

## How do we make our sector more sustainable?

### Joint commitment

We are in constant discussions with our key suppliers on how we can continually improve sustainability in production while taking social and economic aspects into account.

### Setting a good example with rail and electric trucks

The profile components from one of our biggest suppliers are currently sent exclusively via rail to intermediate storage – and then on to us using an electric truck.

### Innovations in steel with less CO<sub>2</sub>

From the end of 2024, we will begin to gradually convert some of our in-house produced profiles to “low carbon emission steel”. With a target reduction of 60% of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per kilogramme of steel processed, 532 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents are generated during its production – compared to 2230 kg per tonne of conventional steel.

### A campus for today and tomorrow

Forster has built a new company campus. As the first hybrid building complex in Switzerland, the technology centre and the production plant are LEED “Gold” certified – the office building even achieves “Platinum” level!

### Energy from renewable sources

A photovoltaic system measuring 6000 square metres installed on the roofs of our Forster Campus site in Romanshorn provides our production facilities with green energy – any excess energy is fed into the regional power grid. We use heat pumps with heat recovery for heating and cooling. In addition, a closed water cycle ensures the careful use of water as a resource.

## 1. RAW MATERIALS AND SUPPLY CHAIN

Forster ensures that resources are used as sparingly as possible and develops products that can be returned to the material cycle at the end of the building service life.

## 2. SUSTAINABLE SITE, SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

100%



#### **Timeless – in every way**

Our product lines are made from 100% steel, meaning they are completely recyclable and can be reused without any loss in quality.

#### **Certified for the future**

We are constantly expanding our offering of products that have been designed and manufactured according to the cradle-to-cradle principle.

Since early 2024, Forster has been providing Environmental Product Declarations (EPD).

#### **Less material**

Thanks to their outstanding static values, our steel products require only little material.

#### **High insulation**

With our products – many of which are Minergie certified and Passive House-certified – buildings can achieve excellent thermal insulation values without using plastic strips or insulating cores.

#### **A long-lasting solution**

Forster systems have an above-average service life, even under heavy load.

## Variety in steel

### For sustainable architecture



*Saint-Omer railway station, France*  
*forster unico xs*  
*Image: Cécile Septet – Richez Associés*



*Geneva Airport, Switzerland*  
*forster fuego light and thermfix light*  
*Image: Damian Poffet*



*Botanic Sanctuary Spa, Antwerp, Belgium*  
*forster unico*  
*Image: Hotel Botanic Sanctuary*



*Spanse Kroon, Antwerp, Belgium*  
*forster unico*  
*Image: Georges de Kinder*



*Uster hospital, Switzerland  
forster fuego light and forster presto 50  
Image: Damian Poffet*



*SuperHub Meerstad, Netherlands  
forster thermfix vario and forster unico  
Image: Ronald Tilleman*



*United Imaging Smart Medical Campus, Shanghai, China  
forster thermfix vario HI and forster unico HI  
Image: Architectural Design & Research Institute of TONGJI University (Group) Co., Ltd., Shanghai*



*Dithmarschen vocational training centre, Germany  
forster fuego light and forster presto 50 & 60s  
Image: Christoph Edelhoff*

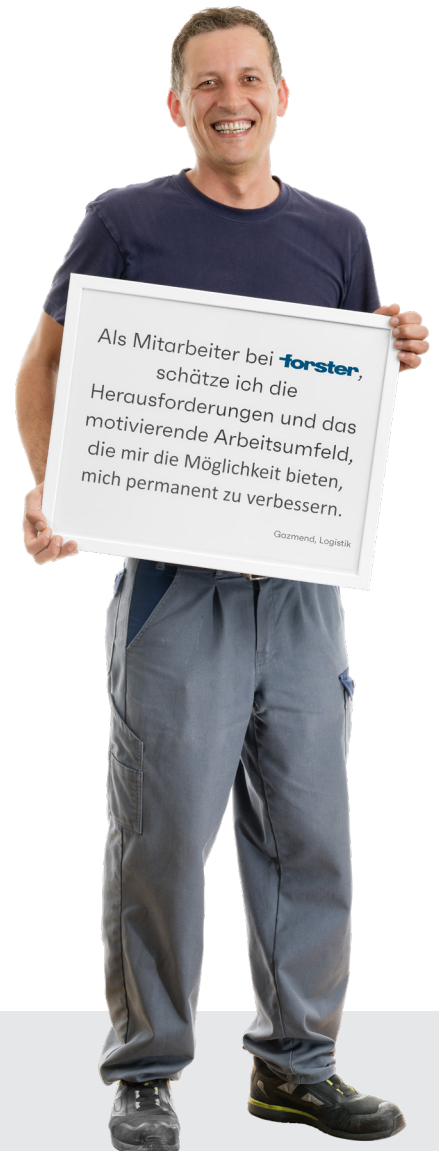
# Working at Forster Together for better.



I appreciate working at Forster because we work closely together in our team and support each other.



I like working at Forster, because I can implement new concepts with state-of-the-art technologies. I am proud to be part of this innovation-based culture.



As an employee at Forster, I appreciate the challenges and the motivating work environment that offer me the opportunity to constantly improve.

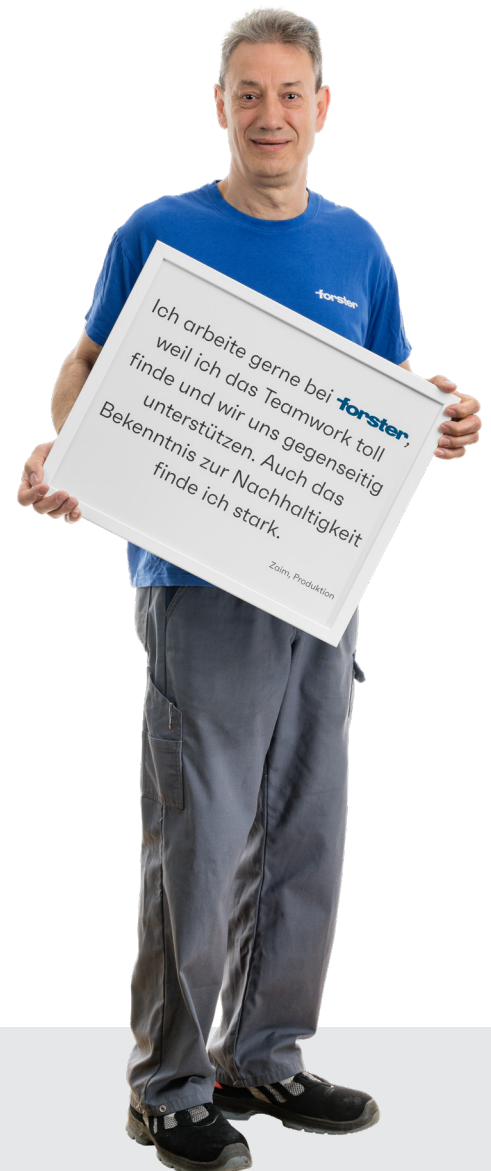
We are proud of our employees and the tireless work they do every day!



I appreciate working at Forster because we work closely together in our team and support each other.



I like working at Forster, because I think the teamwork is great and we support each other. I also think the commitment to sustainability is strong.





*Merkle Metallbau, Trimmis, Switzerland  
forster presto xs, presto, unico and fuego light  
Image: roiderfotografie*



*Trinitatis church, Dresden, Germany  
forster presto, unico and fuego light  
Image: Tomasz Lewandowski*



# Steel is our nature.

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**For us, steel is a matter of the heart. We develop long-lasting systems for attractive and energy-efficient architecture.**

Forster Profile Systems develops and manufactures safe, energy-efficient solutions in steel and stainless steel for doors, windows and facades in Switzerland. Forster works with its own branches in over 20 countries – and exclusive sales partners in around 10 more. In-house consultants are on hand to assist our customers at sites ranging from Europe and the Middle East to Asia and North America. Forster systems are used for building shells and interiors. This includes market-leading solutions that meet

the strictest requirements and standards in terms of thermal insulation, plus safety applications such as fire protection, burglar resistance and bullet resistance. The product range is rounded off by matching accessories. Our customers and business partners in architecture, planning and construction can also count on comprehensive services for their respective industry.

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