**EV GROUP®** SUSTAINABILITY REPORT FY2024 www.EVGroup.com



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01.

#### **Statement of the Management**



The world is facing many challenges, and technology can play an important role in solving them. EVG's pioneering technologies and manufacturing solutions enable the development and production of energy-efficient microelectronic devices using processes that have less impact on the environment.

As a leading equipment manufacturer, we operate an environmental management system and implement our sustainability goals in line with ambitious initiatives in the areas of corporate social responsibility, cultural diversity and equality for all employees, as well as in line with our economic goals.

This sustainability report shows that we have already come a long way!

# WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY...



Mag. Hermann Waltl Executive Sales & Customer Support Director

Alexander Rank
Executive Corporate
Functions Director

DI Erich Thallner President

Aya Maria Thallner
Executive Vice
President

**Dr. Werner Thallner** Executive Operations Director

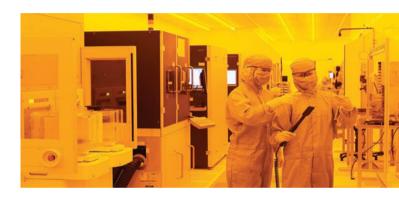
Paul Lindner Executive Technology Director

#### **Our Company**

EV Group (EVG) provides innovative process solutions and expertise that serve leading-edge and future semiconductor designs and chip integration schemes. EVG's high-volume-manufacturing-ready products, which include wafer bonding, lithography, thin-wafer processing and metrology equipment, enable advances in semiconductor front-end scaling, 3D integration and advanced packaging, as well as in other electronics and photonics applications.



With state-of-the-art application labs and cleanrooms at its headquarters in Austria, as well as in North America and Asia, EVG is focused on delivering superior process expertise to its global R&D and production customer and partner base – from the initial development to the final integration at the customer's site.



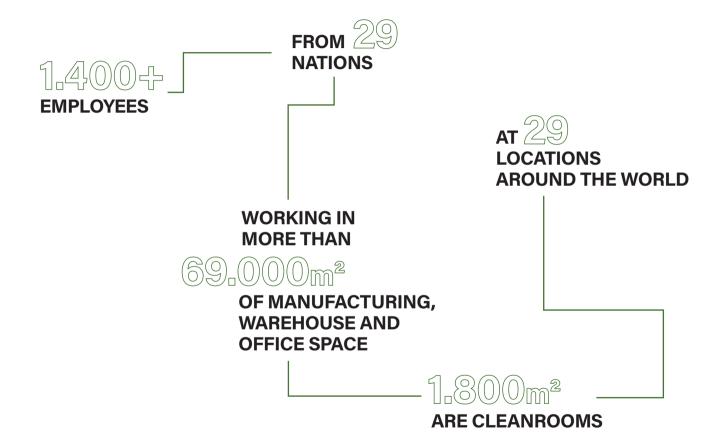
#### **Our Vision**



#### invent - innovate - implement

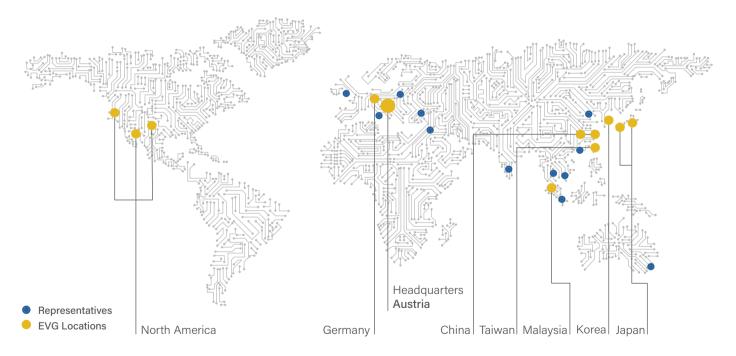
Our Triple-i philosophy is reflected in the enthusiasm for technology, innovative strength and internationality of the entire company. Our vision of "being the first in exploring new techniques and serving next-generation applications of microand nanofabrication technologies" enables our customers to successfully commercialize their new product ideas.

#### **Facts and Data**



### Facts and Data (cont.)

EVG services and supports an elaborate network of customers and partners all over the world, with global headquarters in Austria, fully owned subsidiaries in the U.S., Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan, as well as representatives in many other countries.



#### **Sustainable Corporate Governance**

EVG is a responsible global organization dedicated to safeguarding the welfare of our society and the environment. We are committed to conducting all operations in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, fostering practices that are both sustainable and eco-friendly.

Our Environmental Management System, certified to the ISO 14001 standard, ensures that we handle resources and energy with care. By reducing solid waste, emissions, and wastewater, we continuously improve our environmental performance. We strive to minimize our ecological footprint through innovative solutions and sustainable practices.

Sustainability is at the core of our operations. We prioritize the use of renewable energy sources, implement energyefficient technologies, and promote recycling and waste reduction initiatives. Our goal is to achieve carbon neutrality and contribute to a circular economy.

EVG is committed to corporate social responsibility, ensuring compliance with all applicable legal requirements and regulations related to occupational health and safety, equality, accident prevention, equipment safety, and environmental protection. EVG ensures that all business activities are conducted in accordance with applicable laws and we also adhere to the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) Code of Conduct and support the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act regarding conflict minerals.

We prioritize the well-being of our employees and the communities we serve. EVG ensures equality for all

employees, regardless of age, cultural background, class, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, faith, or marital status. We foster a workplace free from discrimination, intimidation, bullying, harassment, bribery, corruption, and blackmail. All employees, whether parttime, full-time, or temporary, are treated fairly and with respect, valuing the diversity of all. This policy applies to all aspects of employment, from recruitment and training to career development, promotion, and redundancy. Selection for employment, promotion, training, or any other benefit is based on aptitude and ability, ensuring a fair and inclusive work environment.



#### **Research and Development**

# Corporate Sustainability through EVG Technology and Products

At EVG, sustainability is a core principle in product development, covering both hardware and processes. Our technologies significantly enhance energy efficiency, resource conservation, and cost savings. Innovations such as EVG LITHOSCALE®, 3D integration in stacked devices and other EVG solutions demonstrate our commitment to sustainability while improving product quality and efficiency.

Centralized process development promotes synergies and high quality, enabling rapid advancements. Each development run saved significantly reduces the use of test materials and the need to reduce and recycle consumables such as gases, solvents, and chemicals.

LITHOSCALE is a maskless exposure technology that eliminates the need for physical photomasks. Mask generation, storage and cleaning generate high amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions throughout the entire mask life cycle. Generation of quartz as a mask raw material and the etching of chrome structures on the mask are CO<sub>2</sub> intense processes. Furthermore, mask cleaning and storage generates another CO<sub>2</sub> impact. LITHOSCALE eliminates all of these impacts. Furthermore, the equipment design is built on long-lasting solid-state-laser light sources for exposure, while many other types of lithography equipment still rely on high-consumable gas lasers or even mercury arc lamps. Another savings potential for LITHOSCALE

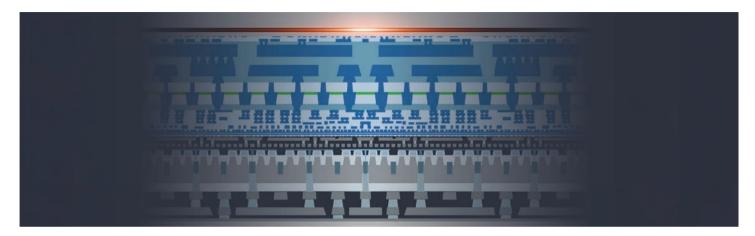
comes from its digital mask processing capabilities, where additional features such as identification and cryptographic marks, and even multiple mask level patterns can be exposed in one pass, together with the initial structures. This lithography approach generates the highest CO. savings of the equipment as it eliminates processing steps. In recent years, several products have been successfully introduced into the market predominantly for threedimensional (3D) integrated devices and advanced packaging. 3D integration in stacked devices offers significant environmental benefits compared to traditional planar integration. By vertically stacking multiple layers of transistors and other components, 3D integration reduces the footprint of electronic devices, leading to more efficient use of materials and space. This compact design minimizes the need for extensive packaging materials,

### **EVG LayerRelease**™

A technology that works entirely without chemical solvents



#### **Research and Development (cont.)**



thereby reducing waste. One of the primary environmental advantages of 3D integration is its potential to lower energy consumption. The shorter interconnects between layers in 3D structures reduce signal delay and power dissipation, leading to more energy-efficient operation. This efficiency is crucial for devices like smartphones and laptops, which can achieve longer battery life and reduced energy usage over their operational lifetime. Moreover, 3D integration can decrease the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing processes. By integrating more functionality into a smaller volume, the overall material usage is reduced, which in turn lowers the energy required for production and the associated greenhouse gas

emissions. Additionally, the ability to integrate different types of materials and technologies within a single device can lead to innovations in energy-saving applications, such as advanced sensors and low-power processors.

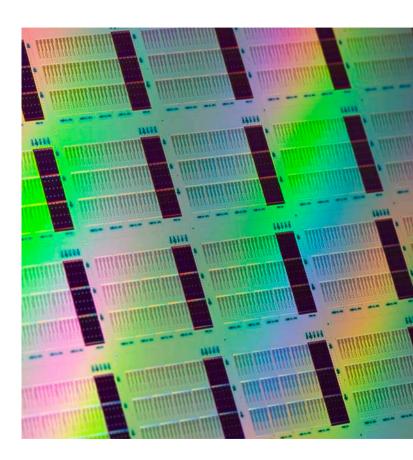
EVG's most recently announced sustainability technology, LayerRelease™, enables a highly selective infrared (IR) release process through silicon wafers. In 3D integration, many carrier mounting and demounting processes are needed. Many demounting processes are still based on material grinding, polishing and etching, therefore not only removing but destroying the handling wafer.

#### Research and Development (cont.)

EVG's LayerRelease technology enables removal of the substrate without any damage, making it reusable and saving a tremendous amount of resources such as electricity and chemicals needed to manufacture a silicon wafer. The same process can be applied in front-end-of-line as well as back-end-of-line carrier processes, making it universally applicable. The cleaning after IR exposure operates entirely without chemical solvents, using a water-based cleaning approach instead. Overall, the adoption of laser release technology in wafer bonding processes contributes to more sustainable manufacturing practices by reducing chemical use, lowering energy consumption, minimizing waste, and improving efficiency.

Nanoimprint lithography (NIL) as an additive lithography and manufacturing technology reduces environmental impact by minimizing chemical use and process steps. NIL is entirely based on the replication of a certain structure. Hence, complicated original features that are expensive and process intense to build are replicated by NIL in a very economical way. It enables precise material usage, reducing waste and enhancing efficiency. NIL's high throughput and scalability further contribute to sustainable manufacturing practices, making it an eco-friendly alternative to traditional methods.

These previously mentioned technologies are just a few examples of the types of solutions that EVG is working on that greatly contribute to our corporate sustainability efforts.



#### **Product Compliance**

#### **Upcoming Restrictions of PFAS**

EVG proactively addresses regulatory changes. Upcoming perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) restrictions may impact certain components of our products. On February 7th, 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published a proposal for extensive PFAS restrictions. As of January 2025, ECHA's Scientific Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) are still evaluating this proposal. In anticipation of these upcoming restrictions, we are already taking steps to eliminate PFAS from our products ahead of the regulatory requirements.

Purchased Parts (used in EVG equipment or spare parts) We are proactively evaluating our supply chain to identify any potential PFAS-containing parts. This requires close collaboration with our suppliers, who are already monitoring ongoing regulatory procedures and have secured their supply chains against PFAS. As an example, the following parts installed in our wet processing equipment may be affected by these restrictions: PFA tubes and sealing elements, high purity solenoid valves, chamber and pump materials, tanks, and containers.

Our commitment to addressing this issue involves a thorough and detailed examination of all components used in our equipment. We are working diligently with

our suppliers to ensure that they are fully aware of the regulatory landscape and are taking the necessary steps to mitigate any risks associated with PFAS. This proactive approach is essential to maintaining the integrity of our supply chain and ensuring that our products remain compliant with all relevant regulations.

As soon as acceptable alternatives are available, we will endeavor to replace PFAS-containing parts in our product designs in the shortest possible time. Potential exceptions for the semiconductor industry will also be considered. We understand the importance of these components in our equipment and are committed to finding suitable replacements that meet our high standards for quality and performance.

As a leading equipment and process materials supplier, EVG aims to ensure a seamless transition for customers without compromising the quality, reliability, and functionality of our products.

#### **Further Regulatory Requirements**

Equipment produced by EV Group is classified as large-scale stationary industrial tools (LSIT). We ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in REACH, RoHS, WEEE, and other relevant regulations.



#### **Certificates**

EVG operates an Environmental Management System certified according to the ISO 14001 standard. Since our first certification in 2010 by Quality Austria, we have continuously improved our system to enhance our environmental performance. This certification is a testament to our commitment to environmental stewardship and adherence to international standards. The ISO 14001 certification ensures that our Environmental Management System (EMS) meets rigorous criteria for managing environmental responsibilities. It provides a framework for identifying, controlling, and reducing environmental impact of our operations. By maintaining this certification, we demonstrate our dedication to continuous improvement and compliance with environmental regulations. Our EMS includes regular audits and reviews to ensure ongoing compliance and effectiveness. These processes help us identify opportunities for improvement and implement best practices in environmental management. The certification also enhances our credibility with stakeholders, showing our commitment to sustainable practices.

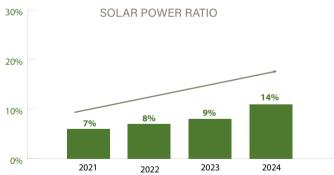


04.

#### **Renewable Energies**

EVG recognizes the need to address climate change and we are committed to playing our part. We join hands with global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C by 2030.

We want to become independent of fossil fuels, and this applies to both new extensions and existing buildings. "We are already very energy-efficient in this respect," says our Pathfinding and Optics Director Bernd Thallner. Our photovoltaic system currently has an installed capacity of 1.8 MWp, compared to 1.5 MWp last year. This currently covers 14 percent of our annual electricity consumption.



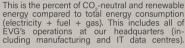
This value indicates what percentage of the total electricity consumed comes from our own PV system compared to the electricity we purchase from external sources.

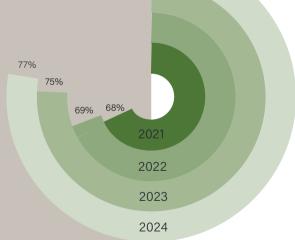


We are proud to announce that 100% of the electricity at our headquarters comes from renewable sources. We also rely on geothermal energy for new construction projects, such as the recently completed Manufacturing VI facility and the expansion of our company kindergarten and restaurant.

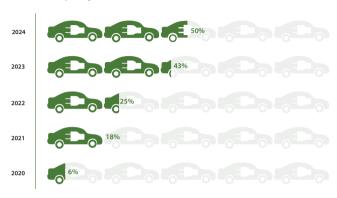
#### **Renewable Energies (cont.)**

#### **CARBON EFFICIENCY RATIO**





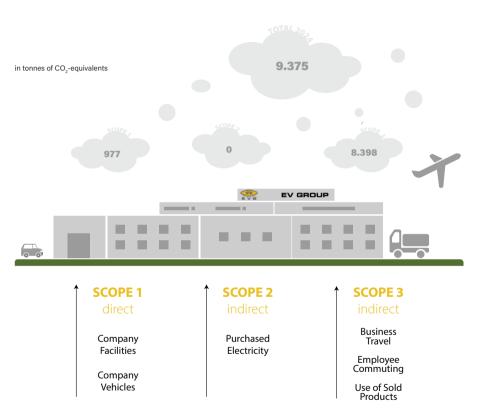
#### Company fleet - % of electric vehicles



We are at the forefront of electromobility with 38 charging stations and a 50-percent share of electric cars in our fleet.

We are also actively shaping the energy transition - specifically, we supply solutions for electromobility. Our equipment produces power semiconductors that are so efficient - thanks to the use of silicon carbide as a carrier material instead of 'classic' silicon - that the energy loss when charging an electric car is reduced by 20 percent.

#### **Carbon Footprint**



#### Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 Emissions

EVG follows the Greenhouse Gas Protocol to classify and manage greenhouse gas emissions into three categories: Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3.

Scope 1 includes all direct emissions from the use of gas for heating and company vehicles. EVG is fully committed to eliminate gas use by switching to CO<sub>2</sub> neutral biomass heating. Additionally, the vehicle fleet is being continuously converted to electric vehicles, with 50% of the fleet already being electric.

**Scope 2** refers to indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased energy. More than 10% of the required electricity is self-produced through the expansion of PV systems. The remaining electricity is sourced externally, with zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated during its production.

Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions along the value chain. Currently business travel, employee commuting, and the use of products by customers are included in this category. Efforts are underway to include more aspects in this category.

#### **Climate Transition Plan**

EVG recognizes the need to address climate change and is committed to transitioning towards a sustainable, low-carbon future. This Climate Transition Plan outlines our strategic approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience, and contributing to global climate goals.

## **Objectives** Reduce Carbon Footprint: Achieve a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, aligning with the Paris Agreement targets. Enhance Sustainability: Integrate sustainable practices across all operations, including energy use, waste management, and resource efficiency. **Promote Innovation:** Invest in research and development of green technologies and sustainable solutions. **Key Components** Emissions Reduction Targets: Set specific, measurable, and time-bound targets for reducing emissions across all sectors of our operations. Renewable Energy Adoption: Transition to renewable energy sources to meet our energy needs. Energy Efficiency Measures: Implement energy-saving initiatives, including upgrading infrastructure, optimizing processes, and promoting energyefficient practices.

#### **Climate Transition Plan (cont.)**

## **Key Components (cont.)** Sustainable Supply Chain: Collaborate with suppliers to ensure sustainable sourcing, reduce environmental impact, and promote circular economy principles. **Employee Engagement:** Foster a culture of sustainability by educating and involving employees in climate action initiatives. Stakeholder Collaboration: Engage with stakeholders, including customers and communities, to support and amplify our climate goals. Monitoring and Reporting Performance Metrics: Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to track progress towards our climate goals. Regular Reporting: Provide transparent and regular updates on our climate transition progress. Continuous Improvement: Review and adjust our strategies based on performance data and emerging best practices.

By implementing this Climate Transition Plan, our organization is committed to making a meaningful contribution to the fight against climate change, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

#### **Water Management**

Water is one of the most vital resources on our planet, essential for all forms of life and critical for various industrial processes. Its responsible management is crucial for ensuring environmental sustainability and the well-being of future generations. EVG therefore understands the importance of managing water resources responsibly. Our focus is to ensure that water is disposed of properly and in an environmentally friendly manner. Our location in Upper Austria offers ideal conditions for our sustainable practices. The region has a secure water supply and an organized wastewater disposal system, contributing to a high quality of life. By working closely with local authorities, we can ensure that our processes are compliant with local regulations. Besides technical facilities such as water jet cutters and humidifiers, and infrastructure like toilets, one of the main consumers of water is the building expansions, which result in higher water usage compared to normal operations. To protect the environment from possible contaminations, we use oil separators in our facilities. These systems are designed to remove oil and other pollutants from wastewater before it enters the sewage system. Through regular maintenance and monitoring, we ensure that these oil separators function reliably and meet legal requirements. Additionally, we strictly adhere to all regulatory permits, including indirect discharge permits for specific types of wastewater.



#### **Handling of Chemicals**

Our dedication to sustainable and responsible chemical management is evident throughout the entire lifecycle of a hazardous substance. This comprehensive approach ensures meticulous management at every phase, from planning to disposal of a hazardous substance, to enhance safety and minimize environmental impact.

Every hazardous substance that is brought onto the company premises is system-recorded and evaluated in advance.

In the planning phase, we focus on assessing the hazardous substances and their associated risks. For chemicals with particularly dangerous properties, substitution is the most critical factor to consider.



#### **Handling of Chemicals (cont.)**

We aim to replace hazardous substances with safer alternatives whenever possible.

Sourcing from reputable suppliers, we ensure high quality and minimal environmental impact.

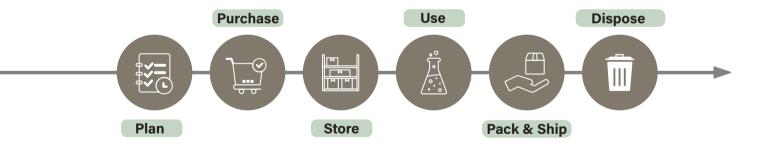
Upon arrival, chemicals are stored in designated areas that comply with legal and safety regulations. Proper labeling and segregation are maintained to prevent any accidental mixing or exposure.

Employees are provided with all relevant information

regarding hazards, usage, and safety measures associated with each hazardous substance. This enables their safe use.

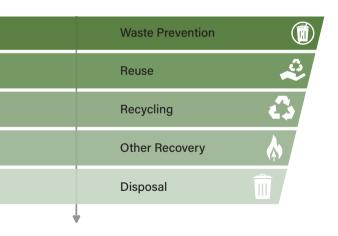
Hazardous substances that need to be shipped are packaged according to regulatory requirements to ensure safe transit.

Finally, EVG ensures that hazardous waste is disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.



#### **Waste Management**

At EVG, we are dedicated to responsible and sustainable waste management. Our primary goal, in line with the principles of waste management, is to minimize waste volumes and reduce the environmental impact of our business activities.



We focus on employing efficient production methods and optimizing our material usage.

Through training sessions and workshops, we educate our employees on the importance of waste reduction and motivate them to act sustainably.

We ensure that the proper disposal of unavoidable waste is always carried out in compliance with all relevant environmental regulations. We guarantee that all waste is disposed of professionally and in an environmentally friendly manner. To achieve this, we collaborate with certified waste disposal companies that possess the necessary permits and expertise.

To ensure transparency and traceability, we maintain detailed records of the quantity and type of waste disposed of. This documentation allows us to track the entire disposal process and quickly access information when needed. Additionally, we use this data to ensure the achievement of our waste management strategies and goals.

To continuously improve our waste management, we regularly monitor and evaluate our processes. Based on the results of these reviews, we implement necessary improvement measures.

05

#### **Health and Safety Management**

Occupational health and safety are of utmost priority for EVG. The introduction of the six EHS rules not only ensures a high safety standard but also helps us pursue the goal of zero incidents.

THE 6

**EHS RULES** 

**OF EVG** 

#### 1. WE EMBRACE OUR SAFETY CULTURE!

We diligently follow all environmental and safety regulations because we believe that safety starts with each one of us.

#### 2. WE ARE AWARE OF RISKS!

We ensure that every task we undertake is performed by trained personnel who are aware of the potential hazards and necessary protective measures because knowledge builds safety and trust.

## 3. WE MEET PROTECTIVE MEASURES!

We emphasize prevention: using safety devices, wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), and conducting regular inspections of work equipment are essential practices because safe working means minimizing risks.

#### 4. WE ACT PROACTIVELY, NOT REACTIVELY!

We are well-prepared for emergencies with clear plans and regular drills. Reporting unsafe situations, actions, and incidents is crucial because early hazard detection is key to prevention.

## 5. WE WORK ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY!

We manage resources responsibly, segregate our waste, and handle hazardous materials with care, as environmental protection begins at the workplace.

#### 6. WE TAKE CARE OF OUR HEALTH!

Through ergonomic workstations and regular health checks, we actively promote well-being and productivity because healthy employees are the foundation for sustainable success.

#### **Company & Culture**



EVG actively embraces diversity, equality, and inclusion as integral parts of our ESG strategy. We currently employ people from nearly 30 different nations, celebrating the richness that various cultures bring to our workplace. We foster an environment where diverse perspectives are not only valued but are essential to our success. By implementing non-discriminatory salary structures and personnel processes, we ensure equal opportunities for all, promoting a truly inclusive and dynamic work culture.

#### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

#### **Diversity & Equity**

At EVG, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusiand equitable workplace. Several policies ensure equality and respect for all employees, regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin, disability, nationality, sexuality, religion, marital status, or social class. We guarantee that all employees, whether part-time, fulltime, or temporary, are treated fairly and with dignity. Discrimination, harassment, bullying, bribery, corruption, and blackmailing are strictly prohibited. We also prioritize the use of inclusive language in all our communications. Employment decisions at EVG are based solely on aptitude and ability, ensuring equal opportunities for employment, promotion, and training. This policy applies to all aspects of employment, from recruitment and training to career development, promotion, and redundancy. As part of our corporate social responsibility, EVG complies with and demands that all suppliers comply with applicable legal requirements and regulations regarding occupational health and safety, equality, accident prevention, equipment safety, environmental protection, and antibribery and corruption. We prohibit the receipt of goods and services from suppliers known to have violated human rights, including child labor, slavery and forced labor. Our policies are continuously reviewed to align with international standards and legal requirements, reaffirming our dedication to equality and diversity.



#### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (cont.)**

#### Inclusion



EVG has had an integrative employment group run by Caritas Upper Austria since September 2011. This enables people with disabilities to participate in the labour market and find meaningful work in the company environment. Three to six employees and supervisor Elisabeth work daily in the workshop, which is located in the Machining Centre. They support us in the area of final preparation, including moulding, packaging and shrink-wrapping of a wide range of parts, and are involved in many other projects. The employees in the integrative employment group have been team members from day one and are part of our close-knit community.



being at EVG," one participant

tells us.

#### Kindergarten

In 2013, EVG was the first company in the Schärding district to start its own free childcare centre. The EVG Minis started with eight children, and currently over 60 youngsters are looked after in two kindergarten and two toddler groups by a total of seven elementary teachers and five educational assistants. As a global player with employees from 29 nations, EVG attaches great importance to variety and diversity from an early age. Every week, the youngsters learn English in a playful way with a native speaker. In addition to the daily activities, there are many other highlights for the young - and old - insiders. The possibility of in-house and free childcare lays the foundation for strengthening gender diversity in the company, in the workforce and in management. The EVG Summer Camp rounds out the childcare programme for employees during the summer.



"Thanks to our central location on the EVG perience many of the wonderful moments of everyday kindergarten life - for example, we visit the headquarters every year in our carnival costumes and perform a singing play."



#### **EVG Academy**



#### **EVG Academy: A Driver of Progress**

The EVG Academy offers outstanding e-learning programs and technical training that continuously educate our employees. Our commitment to education ensures that our workforce remains knowledgeable and skilled in the latest advancements, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence.

#### Value for the Company:

**Skill Enhancement:** Our training programs are designed to keep employees up-to-date with the latest technology and industry trends. This continuous learning process helps our team stay ahead of the curve, ensuring they can tackle new challenges with confidence and expertise.

**Efficiency and Productivity:** By providing practical learning content, we enable our employees to improve workflows and streamline processes. This not only boosts productivity but also helps in reducing errors and enhancing the overall quality of work.

**Motivation and Employee Retention:** Continuous education is a key factor in maintaining high levels of motivation among our employees. By investing in their professional growth, we

foster a sense of loyalty and commitment, which in turn reduces turnover rates and builds a more stable workforce.

**Innovative Power:** We encourage creative thinking and problem-solving through our training programs. By equipping our employees with the tools and knowledge they need, we ensure that they can develop innovative solutions that drive our company forward and maintain our competitive edge.

The EVG Academy is an indispensable part of our corporate strategy. It plays a crucial role in our success by ensuring that our employees are well-prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly changing industry. Through continuous education and training, we not only enhance individual performance but also contribute to the overall growth and resilience of our company.

"As EVG Academy, we see ourselves responsible for the training and education of our employees. Whether as active trainers or supportive in the administration and organization of training courses, our goal is to support every employee in acquiring knowledge and skills for the best possible implementation in their own work. We believe that by empowering our workforce with the right tools and knowledge, we can achieve greater efficiency, innovation, and success. Our commitment to education is unwavering, and we strive to create an environment where learning is valued and encouraged."

#### Headquarters

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