



*Left: "Fachwerkhäuser" in the center of Nienburg
Right: Flexsys Eastman Factory at night*



The month of February started off with no academic subjects but a two-week internship at a local chemical plant in Nienburg. I was slightly nervous in anticipation of this and of the attached school project which two other students and I had to complete following the internship. On the first day I planned to ride with my host father Wolfgang to the train station and then walk to the "Industriegebiet" (industrial area) where the chemical company Flexsys has their factory. Since Wolfgang arrives at the train station at 6:45 a.m. and my walk takes about 20 minutes, I had plenty of time to enjoy a delicious breakfast at a nearby bakery before starting work at 8:00. One of my friends who also lives in Estorf had his internship at the same company where Wolfgang works and so he also rode with us in the mornings.

My first day I worked at the "Kesselhaus" (boiler room); then I got a tour of the entire "Industriepark" (industrial park) Nienburg IPN with companies such as Flexsys (Eastman), BASF, Feralco, and CHR Hansen. I worked for IPN, which is the company that provides steam, pressurized air, electricity, and natural gas to the entire complex. The second day I worked at the Flexsys "Versand", an office that organizes the ordering of raw materials and sends the "Crystex" produced on site to tire factories all over the world. On Wednesday I was at the "Mess- und Regelwerkstatt" which tests and installs new measurement sensors as well as new programs for the existing technology. Thursday I worked at the "Schlosserwerkstatt", which is a heavy machinery workshop, and partially produces the mechanical replacement parts for the companies in the complex. (Note: I also worked for the rest of the two weeks!)

Before I forget, here are two pictures of my academic high school, Albert Schweitzer Schule. One was taken from across the moat; the other one shows the renovated portal of the old part. There is, of course, also a more modern building.



The following slides are part of a Power Point Presentation that the other two students and I put together for our school assignment. The approximate English translations are on the side.



Industrial Park Nienburg
Presented by
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=====
(on the right)
Sewage Treatment Facility



Companies presented and their location at ipn:

BASF (the Chemical Company)

FLEXSYS Eastman

CHR Hansen (Improving food and health)

ipn = Industriepark Nienburg



BASF

Job description for Lab Director of X-Ray Fluorescence in Quality Control

- Project implementation to introduce new analysis methods and/or instrumentation
- Organisation of maintenance and servicing
- Adaptation of testing technology and methods
- Contact person for quality issues
- Professional training in chemical & scientific specialization
- Two-year professional training in quality control and application of analysis technology



CHR Hansen

Biotechnologist

Bachelor/Masters Degree

Main areas:

- White Biotechnology
- Red Biotechnology
- Green Biotechnology

Prerequisites:

- Physics
- Biology
- Mathematics
- Microbiology



CHR Hansen Co.

FLEXSYS ipn

Allgemeine Informationen

- Industrie Park Nienburg (IPN) ist eine Tochtergesellschaft von Flexsys/Eastman
- IPN produziert Strom, Druckluft, Dampf, und Erdgas für alle Firmen im Industriepark
- Der Flexsys Betrieb produziert unlöslichen Schwefel von löslichem Schwefel für die Reifenindustrie.
- Das Schwefelprodukt, welches Crystex heißt, ist hoch entzündlich und bei der Verbrennung entsteht hoch toxisches Gas.
- Das IPN Gelände wird seit 1931 für die Produktion von verschiedenen Chemikalien benutzt.

Flexsys/ipn

General Information

ipn is an affiliate of Flexsys/Eastman;
 ipn produces electricity, compressed air, steam, and natural gas for all companies in the industrial park;
 The Flexsys factory produces insoluble sulfur for the tire industry;
 The sulfur product, called Crystex, is highly flammable and releases toxic gas upon combustion;
 The ipn area has been used for the production of various chemicals since 1931.

FLEXSYS ipn

Praktikumsbetriebe

- Mess- und Regelwerkstatt
- Kesselhaus
- Schlosserwerkstatt
- Versand (Flexsys)
- Labor (Flexsys)
- Magazin
- Feuerwehrdienst

Flexsys/ipn

Internship Areas

- Measurement and Regulation Workshop
- Boiler House
- Locksmith's Workshop
- Shipping (Flexsys)
- Laboratory (Flexsys)
- Warehouse
- Fire Service

(That's where I worked.)

FLEXSYS ipn

Tätigkeiten

- Dateien in SAP eintragen
- Bestellungen
- Lieferscheine erstellen
- schweißen lernen
- Mechanikteile reinigen
- Wasserproben nehmen und testen

Flexsys/ipn

Activities

- Entering data into SAP software
- Placing and processing orders
- Making out delivery slips
- Learning how to solder
- Cleaning mechanical parts
- Taking and testing water samples

(That's what I did.)

Laborarbeit bei Flexsys

Anforderungen:

- Realschulabschluss
- 3-4 Jahre Ausbildung
- Technologiewissen und Organisationstalent

Aufgabenbereiche:

- Qualitätssicherung von Crystex testen
Prozent Asche, Öl, oder Silica Inhalt
- Testen von Wasserproben (organisch und anorganisch)
- Aufstiegschancen... nicht wirklich ☹
- Ausbildungsmöglichkeiten: Sonderfeuerwehr

Flexsys/ipn Lab Work with Flexsys

Requirements:

- Diploma from a "Realschule"
- 3-4 years of professional training
- Technology knowledge, talent for organization

Areas of responsibility

- Quality control of Crystex; testing percentage of ash, oil or silica content
- Testing of water samples (organic & inorganic)
- Career advancement opportunity ... not really
- Training possibilities: specialized fire service for chemical clean-up



Fazit im Hinblick auf unsere Zukunft

Conclusion with Regard to our Future

Each of us three students stated at the end of the presentation how we envisioned our individual futures based on what we had learned during the internship.

My personal take is I would not want to work in a factory, even in a leading position.

However, this experience has given me a great insight into the everyday work life of many middle class German citizens.

Das Ende