Application for the Global Training Program – About Us

The Team

We are a young and highly motivated team of two mechanical engineers with specialization in energy engineering and business economics.

August Zöchbauer, MSc.
Co-Founder and technical chief engineer - studied Mechanical Engineering at the TU Graz and finished his studies in 2014. He gained lots of experience in the biomass sector through several internships and jobs at renowned companies and institutions like KWB and BIOENERGY 2020+. This background gives him the ideal basis for the technical leadership at CarboTherm.

Pia Dietachmair, Msc.
Co-Founder and economical chief manager – studied Mechanical Engineering at the TU Graz and finished her studies in 2016. She gained a lot of experience in economics and science during her part time employment at Siemens AG Ö and USA. This combination of experiences gives her the ideal basis to hold the economic leadership at CarboTherm.

The Idea

August Zöchbauer found out about the positive effects of BC application while working on his master thesis. After a lot of research he realized that there is no furnace available on the market which would make a wide usage of BC in agricultural industry possible. Driven by the desire to counteract the damages to the environment and to support small scale farmers’ independence the idea was born to design an affordable furnace which combines two important functionalities. On the one hand the operator can heat his premises and meet agricultural drying demands throughout the year; and on the other hand the produced BC can benefit the whole farming cycle in-house. Therewith mankind and environment will profit of the manifold advantages BC application offers, like reduction of CO2 of the atmosphere, increased health of animals and plants which furthermore leads to less chemicals in our food.
The Company

The idea behind the business evolved already in late 2013. By the end of 2014 we started working in a team and building up the company. A major part and decision maker for our success is the feasibility of the idea itself. Therefore we started to cooperate with the Institute of Thermal Engineering at the Technical University of Graz. This partnership helps us to prevent mistakes and detrimental developments in an early stage. A first function test bench has already been built at the premises of the partner institute and the upcoming major challenge is the development of the first prototype. Right now we are in the phase of developing the concept of the prototype and preparing the design. Since April 2015 our office is located in Graz, Austria within the co-working space and A+B funding body Science Park Graz. This is also the place where the trainee would work during his/her exchange.

Cooperation/Partners

*Institute of Thermal Engineering TU Graz...*
... supports us with their knowledge and experience in the field of biomass and building prototypes. Our direct contact is the head of the Institute Prof. Christoph Hochenauer. We plan to build the first prototype at the premises of the TU Graz.

*FFG – Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft ...*
... is a government-funded promotion agency. In a first step we could generate government funding to perform a feasibility study. Further funding contracts are in progress.

*Science Park Graz...*
... is funded by the FFG. After prevailing during the application procedure we got the chance to move our office into the offered co-working space. Here we have the chance to profit from the professional knowledge and experiences within the startup ecosystem. This helps to guarantee the best possible funding process. Some participants of the Global Training Program already had the chance to work with startups based at Science Park Graz, e.g. Crosscloud, Powerix.