DR. WEIGERT
SYSTEMATIC HYGIENE

update

The Info magazine

Edition 11|2026

Science meets practice
Optimised reprocessing at Aalborg University Hospital

Our green side
Sustainability at Dr. Weigert

A look inside SanumTec production
Clean processes, high-quality products

Clean, safe, durable
Professional deep cleaning of kitchen floors

Making the invisible visible
New microscope expands analytical capabilities

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Karin Bundgaard, Professor at the Clinical Research Unit for Nursing at Aalborg University Hospital and the Department of Clinical Medicine at Aalborg University.



Science meets practice: *Optimised reprocessing at Aalborg University Hospital*

How can cleaning processes in medical device reprocessing be optimised from the outset? As part of the commissioning of the new Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) at Aalborg University Hospital, various processes and products were evaluated. In this interview, researcher Karin Bundgaard discusses the background of the project, the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, and the findings that helped optimise the reprocessing procedures.

update: Ms Bundgaard, what prompted Aalborg University Hospital to explore new approaches to instrument reprocessing?

Karin Bundgaard: The main reason was the move to an entirely new hospital. A new CSSD was also established. Everything was new – from the washer-disinfectors and sterilisers to the workflows and layout of the facilities. Before these processes were introduced into routine clinical practice, every step had to be validated in order to ensure that the reprocessing of surgical instruments met the highest standards of quality and patient safety and complied with regulatory requirements. Because we had the opportunity to redesign the processes from scratch, we first wanted to determine which methods and products delivered the best cleaning performance before proceeding with formal validation.

update: What was your role during the testing phase of neodisher® MediClean advanced, and which aspects were particularly important to you?

Karin Bundgaard: I am a researcher and have been studying the science behind medical device reprocessing for around 10 years. As part of our '*Sterile Science*' research programme, we developed scientific methods to assess the quality of cleaning and the performance of washer-disinfectors. We quickly realised that these methods would also be ideal for the clinical testing and validation of the new equipment at Aalborg University Hospital. The CSSD was in a unique position because it was being established from scratch.

Before validating the equipment, the team wanted to determine which cleaning processes offered the greatest benefits. We were therefore invited to provide scientific support for the project. It was a genuine partnership. The CSSD team contributed extensive practical experience and a thorough understanding of the workflows while we provided the scientific methodology. What should be measured? How are measurements taken? And how are the results evaluated? Our goal was to achieve the highest possible cleaning quality while improving efficiency and reducing manual work. We examined various factors, including ultrasonic cleaning, trolley loading, and cleaning programmes as well as the potential for neodisher® MediClean advanced to further improve cleaning results.

update: In your opinion, which factors are most important when hospitals evaluate new reprocessing procedures or products?

Karin Bundgaard: Collaboration is the most important factor for success. The best results come from bringing together people with different areas of expertise. The CSSD team is familiar with the daily workflows, logistics, and practical challenges. Researchers provide scientific methods that enable objective and transparent decision-making. Strong management is just as important. The active support of Thomas Rendal, Head of the CSSD, was essential in securing management involvement and ensuring that the project progressed as planned. Collaboration with industry is also highly valuable. Manufacturers have extensive knowledge of their products and can provide valuable technical support in optimising cleaning processes.

update: What were the results?

Karin Bundgaard: The tests conducted before formal validation allowed us to optimise the cleaning processes. The following measures were introduced based on the results:

- a 30-second manual pre-rinse before ultrasonic cleaning or automated cleaning and disinfection
- four minutes of ultrasonic cleaning, where permitted by the manufacturer's instructions Certain instruments such as HALL devices and chucks are excluded from this.
- loading three racks per level
- the use of neodisher® MediClean advanced as the cleaning agent

Together, these adjustments resulted in a highly efficient cleaning process that delivered excellent cleaning performance and high throughput in the CSSD.

update: How important is close collaboration between users, researchers, and industry in projects of this kind?

Karin Bundgaard: It is indispensable. No single group can achieve the best possible results on its own.

Users are familiar with clinical practice and daily workflows. Researchers contribute objective testing methods and a scientific basis for decision-making. Industry partners provide detailed knowledge of their products and how best to use them.

Collaboration with industry was particularly valuable in our project. Jakob Andersen from Dorte Egelund ApS shared his extensive knowledge of the properties of neodisher® MediClean advanced and its applications in various cleaning processes.

Combining these perspectives leads to decisions that are scientifically sound and practically feasible. This ensures robust validation, facilitates implementation, and ultimately contributes to safer and more efficient medical device reprocessing.

update: What developments would you like to see in medical device reprocessing?

Karin Bundgaard: I would like to see a stronger scientific basis for medical device reprocessing. Many decisions are still based on traditional practices or local experience. I would like to see more hospitals use scientific methods to systematically optimise and validate their cleaning processes before they are introduced into routine practice.

I also expect digital monitoring systems, automation, and data-driven quality assurance to become increasingly widespread. Processes can therefore be continually monitored and improved without having to rely solely on periodic validation.

update would like to thank you for the interview and the valuable insights into your work.



Stefanie Küpper,
MSc Chemistry (German Diplom),
Sustainability Officer

The green side of Dr. Weigert – *economic, social, ecological*

For us, sustainability means transparency, responsibility, and continual improvement. Read on to find out what steps we are taking towards this goal.

EmpCo – new rules for credible sustainability claims

Sustainability is playing an increasingly important role in purchasing decisions. Concerns about 'greenwashing' claims are also growing. The new EU Directive on Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition (EmpCo) therefore introduces much stricter rules for environmental and sustainability claims. Directive (EU) 2024/825 is intended to better protect consumers against misleading advertising claims and increase transparency.

For companies, this means that general claims such as 'environmentally friendly', 'green', or 'sustainable' will be permitted only if they can be substantiated by credible, verifiable evidence. Sustainability labels must also be based on credible certification schemes. Our eco edition features products that have been awarded the official EU Ecolabel and been subjected to environmental performance assessments based on defined criteria. The eco edition is therefore based on an established, independently verified environmental labelling scheme that meets the requirements of the EmpCo Directive.

What does that mean for Dr. Weigert?

As a company with established quality and environmental management systems, Dr. Weigert has processes in place to collect, assess, and document environmental performance data. Nevertheless, all environmental claims in brochures, product information, websites, and other communication materials will require even closer scrutiny. Claims about environmental benefits, resource conservation, or climate protection must be supported by verifiable evidence and documentation.

For us, EmpCo means continuing to focus on transparency, reliable data, and fact-based communication. This provides a basis for transparent and legally compliant communication of our sustainability activities and ensures that we can continue to communicate them credibly and in accordance with legal requirements.

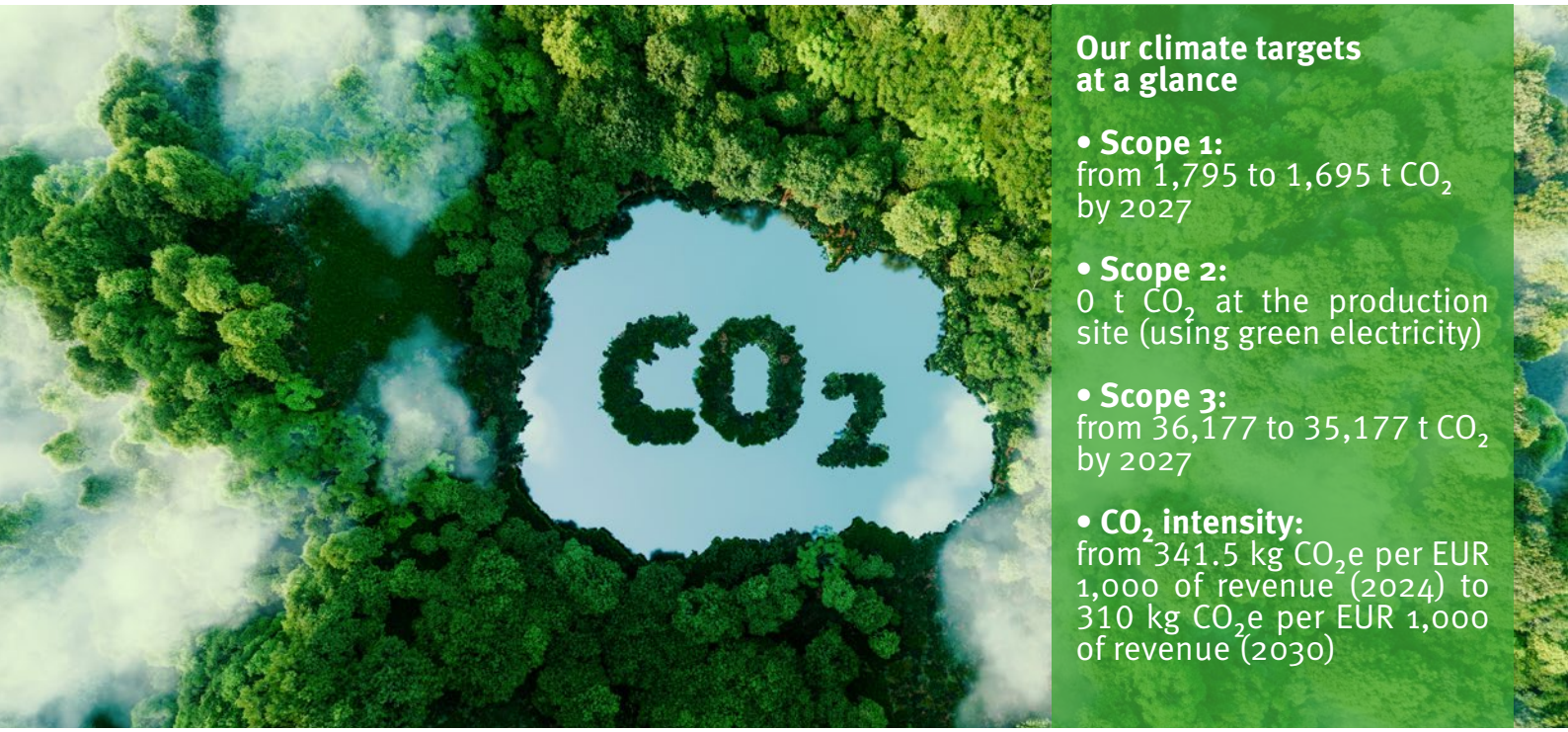
Sustainability Report 2025

Our sustainability report for the 2025 reporting year is based on the new Voluntary Standard (VS). This replaced the previous VSME in July 2026. Following amendments to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the voluntary reporting standard was extended to companies with up to 1,000 employees and is therefore no longer aimed exclusively at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The 'SME' designation will therefore be dropped from the name.

The report provides transparency about our goals, measures, and progress in the areas of environmental, social, and corporate governance. This is becoming increasingly important to customers, business partners, and financial institutions and strengthens their trust in our company.

For the first time, our sustainability report includes not only Chemische Fabrik Dr. Weigert GmbH & Co. KG in Germany but also our subsidiaries. The report therefore covers the sustainability activities of the entire Dr. Weigert Group. We are also pursuing another important sustainability objective by gradually and systematically integrating our subsidiaries into our sustainability reporting.

The publication reflects our commitment to systematically advancing our sustainability efforts and reporting on our performance in a transparent and verifiable manner.



Our climate targets at a glance

- **Scope 1:** from 1,795 to 1,695 t CO_2 by 2027
- **Scope 2:** 0 t CO_2 at the production site (using green electricity)
- **Scope 3:** from 36,177 to 35,177 t CO_2 by 2027
- **CO_2 intensity:** from 341.5 kg CO_2e per EUR 1,000 of revenue (2024) to 310 kg CO_2e per EUR 1,000 of revenue (2030)

More transparency, better data, new CO_2 targets

For us, sustainability also means regularly reviewing our targets and adjusting them as the quality of our data improves. We have therefore revised our CO_2e intensity target.

The previous target of reducing CO_2e intensity to 250 kg CO_2e per EUR 1,000 of revenue by the end of 2026 was based on data collected according to the Pareto principle. This initially covered only the products and activities responsible for the highest emissions.

We have since considerably expanded our data collection and now cover all relevant products and activities. The transition to a complete dataset covering all relevant products and activities has greatly improved the quality and usefulness of our emissions data. The current figures are also not directly comparable with previous figures.

Updated climate targets and how we plan to meet them

Against this background, we have set a new CO_2e intensity target. By 2030, we aim to reduce CO_2e intensity from 341.5 kg CO_2e per EUR 1,000 of revenue in the 2024 base year to 310 kg CO_2e per EUR 1,000 of revenue. This represents a targeted reduction of approx. 9%.

Positive progress already evident

Positive progress is already evident. CO_2e intensity decreased from 341.5 kg CO_2e per EUR 1,000 of revenue in 2024 to 318.5 kg CO_2e per EUR 1,000 of revenue in 2025.

This development shows that the measures already introduced are having an effect. However, the progress made so far is only one step towards further reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Measures to achieve the targets

Various measures have already been implemented or initiated to support these objectives. These include:

- a new climate control system with heat recovery
- the use of HVO100 fuel for industrial trucks
- gradual electrification of the vehicle fleet
- the optimisation of raw materials, packaging, and transport processes.

Additional measures, including further activities at our subsidiaries, are continually reviewed and developed. The new target provides a transparent and reliable basis for more precisely managing our emissions and systematically documenting our progress.



SANUMTEC

A look inside SanumTec production – *clean processes, high-quality products*

A daily dose of just 10–40 ml of these food supplements provides the body with a wide range of important nutrients. The bottle labels list the ingredients, including a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. SanumTec GmbH receives large quantities of these raw materials at its facility in Hohenbrunn. However, only their most valuable components make it into the finished products, which are packaged in sizes ranging from 20 ml bottles to 350 ml and 500 ml containers.

During a joint customer visit and service call at SanumTec GmbH in Hohenbrunn near Munich, we gained insights into how these products are manufactured. SanumTec uses clearly structured, controlled processes, particularly for fermentation. Dr. Weigert assists SanumTec primarily with cleaning its CIP systems and thus helps maintain consistent and reproducible hygiene conditions throughout the process.

From raw material delivery to the dispatch warehouse

The main focus of our visit was a tour of the production facilities from the delivery of raw materials to the storage of finished products in the dispatch warehouse. The process begins with the delivery of raw materials. Only organic ingredients, including lemons, walnuts, onions, and artichokes, are used for fermentation. After arrival, the raw materials are cleaned and prepared for further processing.

The next step takes us to the heart of the production process: fermentation. Over a period of around six weeks, the raw materials are broken down into bioavailable molecular compounds. In this three-stage process, selected lactic acid bacteria are added at defined intervals. We received a brief overview of the individual stages (see top of page 7). These lactic acid bacteria release valuable compounds and help make the nutrients more readily available for absorption by the body. At the end of the fermentation process, the liquid and solid phases are separated. The liquid extract, which contains the nutrients, is particularly important for further processing and forms the basis for the final food supplements.

Once fermentation is complete, the product is further processed through the addition of minerals, fruit juices, or vitamins. The finished product is then filled into containers, packaged, and transferred to the dispatch warehouse, where it is prepared for delivery.

Collaboration with SanumTec

Discussions on site highlighted that, alongside product quality, close collaboration with Dr. Weigert as an expert in cleaning processes plays a particularly important role in maintaining high standards in daily operations.



After two weeks



After four weeks



After six weeks

Fermentation over time

Three stages of fermentation, shown at two-week intervals, illustrate how the raw materials change throughout the process. Fermentation uses the natural metabolic processes of microorganisms to transform ingredients. During this process, the colour, consistency, and odour of the raw materials can change considerably as new bioactive compounds are formed.
Fermentation has been used in food production for centuries and now also plays an important role in the manufacture of food supplements.

"For us, the deciding factors were the ease of contacting our partner and the direct service provided by a medium-sized company"

This feedback highlights the importance of reliability and direct points of contact for successful implementation during routine operations.

Conclusion

The visit demonstrated how selected raw materials are transformed into a high-quality product. The key is to combine high-quality raw materials, controlled fermentation, and reliable cleaning in a coordinated process.

We would like to thank Ms Busch and Ms Reichel for giving us an insight into production at SanumTec GmbH.

Martin Klatt (Technical Consulting and Sales/neomoscan) and Chiara Marie Finke (Product Management and Marketing/neomoscan) were also on site.



Cleaning the raw materials is an important step in quality assurance.



The filled bottles are prepared for dispatch.



Clean, safe, durable – *professional deep cleaning of kitchen floors*

Floors in areas where cooking, washing up, and transport activities take place every day are subject to heavy wear and tear. These floors are constantly exposed to food residues, moisture, and cleaning agents as well as the movement of transport trolleys. Despite thorough routine cleaning, stubborn residues can build up over time. Professional deep cleaning facilitates subsequent routine cleaning, helps maintain hygiene standards, and restores slip resistance to improve workplace safety.

Why kitchen floors need special attention

Production kitchens and dishwashing areas generally have slip-resistant porcelain stoneware tiles or synthetic resin flooring (e.g. epoxy resin). Although rough or textured surfaces improve workplace safety in wet conditions, dirt can adhere to them more easily. Different types of soiling often form layers that make cleaning more difficult. These include organic deposits such as grease, protein, and starch from food processing, mineral deposits from hard water, and other contaminants such as rubber particles, dust, and dirt from outside.

When daily cleaning is no longer sufficient

Daily routine cleaning removes soiling and residues that accumulate during normal operations. However, deep surface textures, edges, and hard-to-reach or obstructed areas are not always thoroughly cleaned. This can result in visible differences in appearance such as dark patches or pale films.

Deep cleaning removes stubborn deposits and residues that routine cleaning can no longer adequately remove. It can help restore slip resistance, improve workplace safety, and facilitate daily routine cleaning.

However, deep cleaning cannot reverse wear, material damage, age-related deterioration, or problems caused by unsuitable floor surfaces.

Initial assessment

Before deep cleaning begins, the type and condition of the flooring, including the grout joints, are assessed along with the types of soiling and the local water quality. Structural defects such as insufficient floor gradients or raised floor drains can cause water to pool and encourage the formation of deposits such as limescale. Adjacent areas such as corridors, storage rooms, and dining areas may have different floor coverings such as PVC or linoleum. Sensitive materials such as wood or marble may also be present. These areas must be excluded from the deep cleaning process described below because they require different treatment from typical kitchen floors.

Key factors in deep cleaning

Because predominantly organic soiling is found in kitchens, alkaline deep cleaning is usually performed first. Any underlying limescale deposits can then be treated with an acidic detergent. We recommend using cold or lukewarm water to clean floors. Our neodisher® floor products (see table on page 9) are fully effective even at low temperatures. This saves energy and reduces limescale precipitation when mineral-rich water is used.

Mechanical cleaning produces the best cleaning results. A low-speed single-disc cleaning machine with a soft brush or suitable pad is particularly well suited to this task. If this is not possible, the floor can be cleaned manually using a soft brush. In both

cases, the floor is then rinsed with plenty of fresh water, and the liquid is removed using a suitable wet vacuum cleaner.

Thorough removal of the used cleaning solution followed by rinsing with fresh water is essential for removing loosened dirt. Insufficient rinsing leaves new residues on the surface.

Practical example of successful two-stage deep cleaning

A site visit revealed a common problem in such environments: various types of soiling were present on slip-resistant porcelain stoneware tiles. The measured water hardness of approx. 18 °dH contributed to mineral deposits and limescale build-up along edges and in obstructed areas.

A low-speed single-disc cleaning machine with a soft brush was used on a test area. The first stage involved alkaline deep cleaning with neodisher® floor ultra, which removed most of the deposits. The alkaline deep cleaning process had already wetted the cement-based grout joints to allow for acidic deep cleaning with neodisher® floor special. The results confirmed that the two-stage deep cleaning process was suitable for this site.

If you have any questions about floor cleaning or would like further information, the Dr. Weigert technical advisers will be happy to help.

Bianca Haferbecker
Kitchen application technology



Clear improvement in cleaning results in the test area: Before the two-stage deep cleaning process, the tiled floor was heavily soiled. After treatment, the surface was visibly brighter and thoroughly clean.

When is deep cleaning necessary?

Signs that deep cleaning is necessary:

- pale films or dark patches on the surface
- stubborn deposits despite daily cleaning
- reduced slip resistance

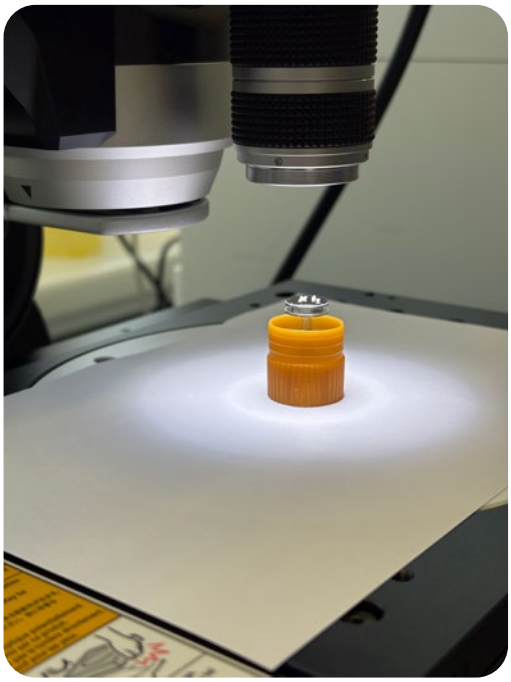
Which detergent for which soiling?

Cleaning type	Suitable for
Alkaline e.g. neodisher® floor ultra	organic soiling such as grease, protein, starch, and food residues
Active-chlorine-based e.g. neodisher® floor active	organic soiling, discolouration, tannin-containing residues, and stubborn deposits
Acidic e.g. neodisher® floor special	limescale and other mineral deposits

Precautions for deep cleaning

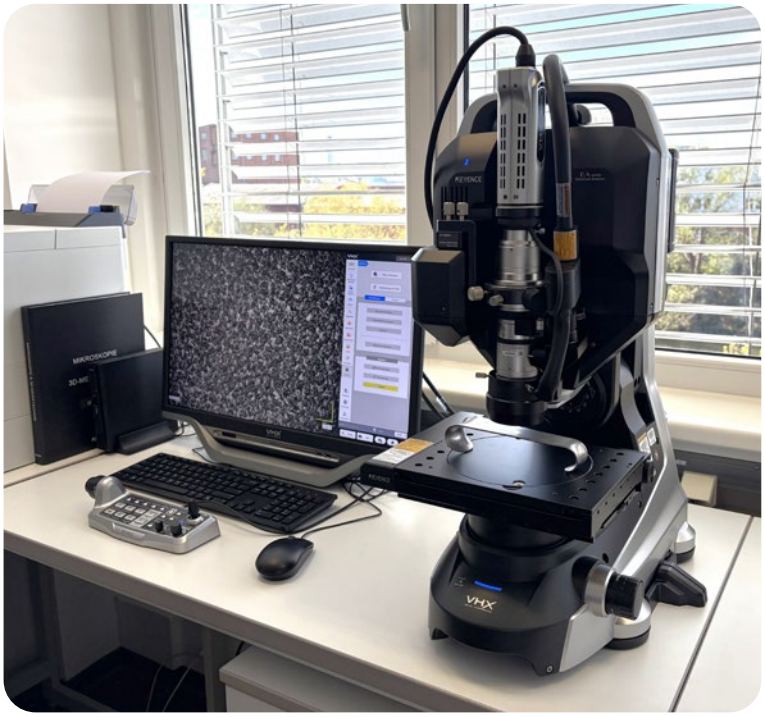
- Products containing active chlorine should never be mixed with acids because this can release hazardous chlorine gas.
- Wet cement-based grout joints before using an acidic cleaner to prevent damage.
- When using acidic products, it is important to ensure that the flooring materials and drainpipes are acid-resistant.
- Follow the flooring manufacturer's instructions.
- Follow the recommended contact times and use the correct dosage.
- Ensure sufficient mechanical cleaning of the floor.

Making the invisible visible – *digital microscopy with integrated laser-based elemental analysis*



Our laboratory recently acquired a new microscopy and analysis system. The Keyence VHX-X1 combines digital microscopy with integrated laser-based elemental analysis. In addition to capturing high-resolution images, the system can perform elemental analyses and three-dimensional measurements.

Precise imaging and rapid material analysis with the Keyence VHX-X1. The instrument is now installed in the instrumental analysis laboratory.



More than just magnification

Our configuration allows us to capture photos and videos at magnifications of up to 1,000×. Various lighting options help reveal fine surface structures. The motorised movement axes also allow large areas to be scanned automatically and combined into a single image. Multiple images can be combined in a single plane or through focus stacking to produce a composite image with greater depth of field. The system can also perform measurements in all three spatial dimensions with micrometre precision.

Straightforward elemental analysis

In addition to microscopic imaging, the system can perform elemental analysis using laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS). This method uses a short, intense laser pulse directed at the surface of the sample. The laser pulse vaporises a minute amount of the sample material and converts it into a high-energy state.
The resulting plasma emits light, which is detected by the elemental analysis system. Each chemical element produces a characteristic emission spectrum in the plasma; this can be used to determine

the composition of the material under examination.

A key advantage of the method is that analysis can be performed directly on the component or specimen. Minimal sample preparation is required provided that the object under examination can be placed under the microscope.

Area of application

The new instrument will be used primarily for service assignments and technical enquiries. The system therefore directly supports the resolution of technical questions and problems encountered by our customers. This allows surface changes (e.g. deposits or discolouration) on instruments, equipment, and other utensils to be examined and, if necessary, analysed in order to determine the composition of the deposits or other surface alterations. This supports root cause analysis and helps identify sources of errors or problems. The microscope is not meant to replace existing methods but rather to complement them and expand our analytical capabilities. Depending on the question under investigation, other analytical methods such as scanning electron microscopy with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDX) continue to be used. Combining different examination methods allows materials, surfaces, and types of damage to be assessed more thoroughly because each method has its own strengths.

The system can also support research and development in other departments. This allows surfaces, particles, and components to be examined, technical questions to be addressed, and test results to be documented in a traceable manner.

Each sample is different

The examination of materials often requires an individual approach. Factors such as surface condition and material composition influence the analysis results. For this reason, the data obtained are always evaluated in conjunction with other information from the specific case under investigation. The data obtained are carefully reviewed and, where possible, compared against known reference materials and established analytical methods. The aim is to identify the strengths and limitations of the new method for different applications. The findings also provide the basis for gradually developing our own reference database. As more samples are examined, a growing collection of reference data and practical experience is built up.



Wear corrosion, 500× magnification – inner joint area of a coated needle holder. Areas where friction has damaged the protective coating and led to corrosion of the underlying stainless steel are clearly visible.

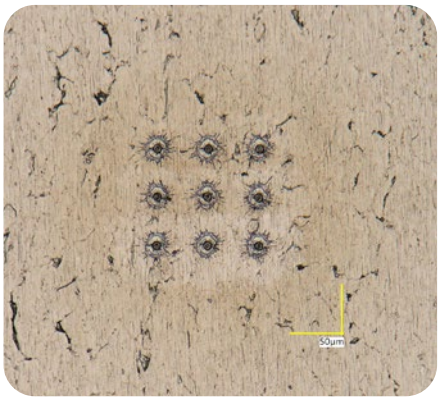
Outlook

The new system has already been used in practice. The measurement data obtained using the microscope have enabled us to complete our first service assignments and resolve technical questions. The findings will help refine the examination method and expand its range of applications.

Simon Helmke
Analytics and application technology
Medicine/dental

Ablation craters are small craters left in the material after a LIBS measurement. Nine measurement points arranged in a 3 × 3 grid on a polished stainless-steel surface.





Behind the scenes: *patent management at Dr. Weigert*

At Dr. Weigert, patent management often goes unnoticed but plays a vital role in the company. On this page, Dr Staffeldt provides insights into the establishment and development of this department, which he continued to shape for more than 10 years after his retirement.

"When I joined Dr. Weigert in 1978, the company did not hold a single legally valid patent. However, the company has a history of patents dating back to the early 1930s, when founder Dr Walter Weigert filed the first patent applications. These included German Patent No. 561455 for treating wood veneers with hypochlorite solutions and German Patent No. 567178 for producing liquid cleaning agents and disinfectants based on sodium hypochlorite and caustic alkalis with sodium silicate as a metal protection component.

Although several patent applications had been filed before the 1990s, none resulted in legally valid patents. In retrospect, this is surprising for a medium-sized company like Dr. Weigert that places such great emphasis on innovation, quality, and securing its future.

From the 1990s onwards, we successfully secured the necessary patent protection for our innovations in medical device reprocessing, machine dishwashing, food and beverage hygiene, beverage machine cleaning tablets, and dosing and control technology. A case involving dosing technology demonstrated the need to file patent applications early. A German manufacturer that supplied components for our dosing systems filed a patent application. An internal review revealed that we had already supplied and installed dosing equipment with these technical features at hospitals before the patent application was filed. This meant that we had effectively already made public use of the invention before the patent application was filed. However, because there was insufficient reliable documentation to substantiate our prior use, the patent was granted and became legally binding. As a result, we had to seek permission from the patent holder to continue using a solution that we had originally developed and were the first to implement. This also meant paying ongoing licence fees. In retrospect, this case highlighted the importance of promptly filing patent applications for our own inventions and systematically documenting their development and market launch.

These experiences shaped our current approach to patents as a strategic tool for consistently protecting our own innovations.

Systematic monitoring of patent applications and patent grants involving other companies is also essential. However, it was not until 2015 that I was able to devote more attention to this and other patent-related responsibilities. We also monitor patents in relevant classes in order to identify the development trends of competitors early on and assess the state of the art in relation to our own product development and patent applications. This prevents the costly duplication of development work and ensures that our own developments do not infringe third-party intellectual property rights. Patent applications and published patent documents also provide valuable inspiration for our own innovations. My responsibilities also included monitoring the procedural status of patent applications and granted patents at the European Patent Office (EPO) and the German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA), assessing patent situations during the feasibility and product development phases, and conducting targeted patent searches. I also reviewed advertising claims made by competitors for potential infringements of intellectual property rights, assisted with patent applications, and advised management on patent renewal fees in Germany and abroad."

Dr Jürgen Staffeldt



DEUTSCHES REICH

AUSGEGEBEN AM
14. OKTOBER 1932

REICHSPATENTAMT

PATENTSCHRIFT

№ 561455

KLASSE 38h GRUPPE 5

W 86963 IV b|38 h

Tag der Bekanntmachung über die Erteilung des Patents: 29. September 1932

Dr. Walter Weigert in Hamburg

Verfahren zum Veredeln von Furnierhölzern

Patentiert im Deutschen Reiche vom 12. September 1931 ab

Copy of a patent from 1931.

Three questions for ...
Dr Christine Hegemann



Question 1: You took over responsibility for patent management from Dr Staffeldt. What had the greatest influence on you during this transition?

Dr Christine Hegemann:
When I joined Chemische Fabrik Dr. Weigert, I was particularly impressed by the wealth of knowledge accumulated over many years. This includes the systematic evaluation of competitor patent documents and the careful monitoring of their patent grant procedures.
Thanks to the extensive expertise of Dr Staffeldt and the patent evaluation team, we established a structured process that provides valuable insights into market activities and developments.
Since then, I have further digitalised and streamlined these processes. However, the core content and established approach have remained unchanged.

Question 2: What does patent management at Dr. Weigert involve today?

Dr Christine Hegemann:
Patent management is a key part of our intellectual property management. Intellectual property encompasses proprietary knowledge and creative assets from ideas, inventions, and developments to trademarks and designs.
Our success is based on the expertise, creativity, and innovative capacity of our employees. My role is to strategically protect these innovations and secure the appropriate intellectual property rights in international markets.
Patents, trademarks, and other intellectual property rights therefore play an important role in protecting our innovations in the long term and contributing to the commercial success of our products.

Question 3: How important is intellectual property management for the future of the company?

Dr Christine Hegemann:
Our development work is reflected in our products and creates lasting competitive advantages. We use trademarks, patents, and other intellectual property rights to protect these innovations and secure exclusive rights to market them. This not only protects our investments in research and development but also increases the long-term value of the company and expands our strategic options.
Respecting the intellectual property rights of other companies is also an integral part of our corporate principles. We respect the rights of third parties and expect our competitors to do the same. If our intellectual property rights are infringed, we take decisive action to protect and enforce them.

update would like to thank you for the interview.

What exactly is a patent?

- A patent protects new technical inventions, including products and processes.
- It grants the patent holder exclusive rights, including the right to prevent unauthorised commercial use of the invention, within a defined geographical area for a limited period.
- Patent holders can take legal action against infringements and derive commercial benefits from their inventions through licensing agreements that help finance further development.
- The patent portfolio of a company is a valuable asset that reflects its capacity for innovation and can play an important role in company valuations.

Dr. Weigert *news*

FSRACA 2026 Australia



From 30 September to 2 October 2026, the *Sterilizing Research Advisory Council of Australia* held its national conference on medical device reprocessing on the Gold Coast in Australia. This national congress takes place every three years. This year, under the theme 'Waves of Innovation', it attracted around 300 visitors and 40 exhibitors to the Gold Coast in south-east Queensland. Dr. Weigert was represented at the exhibition by our partner gke Australia and contributed several presentations to the conference programme. At a symposium on corrosion, around 70 participants attended a presentation and practical demonstration on the three pillars of corrosion prevention: passivation, inhibition, and corrosion removal. During the workshop, heavily corroded instruments were treated with neodisher® IR, and participants saw the effects of the product first-hand and in real time. As part of the scientific programme, Dr Bastian Wulff gave a presentation on the properties of coagulated blood as a contaminant on medical devices. He later joined other international guests for a panel discussion and answered questions from the audience. The week also included numerous professional discussions outside the official programme, a tour of a local healthcare equipment manufacturer, and visits to customers in the region. Special thanks go to Lauren Kontus and her team at gke Australia for their excellent organisation and support.

Dr. Weigert at the 'Rowing Against Cancer' charity regatta



In July 2026, our Wave Coders team took part in the 'Rowing Against Cancer' charity regatta organised by Ruder-Gesellschaft Hansa.
With support from Martin Kern and RG Hansa, the team quickly learned the basics of rowing. With each training session, the team grew more confident and worked better together. On race day, the benefits of training together became clear when the Wave Coders took first place in the opening race. The team faced strong competition in the second race and finished fourth. But the results were only part of the story that day. The main focus was on supporting 'Rowing Against Cancer' and coming together for a good cause. The Wave Coders gained valuable experience, strengthened their team spirit, and made lasting memories.

A special place in her heart for neo and Dr. Weigert



A particularly heart-warming gesture shows that Dr. Weigert is more than just a place to work. An employee's seven-year-old daughter put her creativity to work and drew a picture of 'neo', the Dr. Weigert mascot. This blue droplet serves as a central symbol for water, the most important medium in cleaning processes. She also proudly added the Dr. Weigert logo above her cheerful drawing.

The young artist knows the stories about neo from her father and has many positive associations with the company. Her drawing is a charming example of how a sense of belonging and enthusiasm for Dr. Weigert can extend beyond the workplace to family life.

Moments like these show that Dr. Weigert leaves a lasting impression not only on employees but also on their families. We would like to thank her for this lovely drawing, which brought a smile to our faces.

When a tank is lifted through the roof



Some projects begin as a technical necessity and ultimately become a remarkable team effort. This was demonstrated in summer 2026 when three tanks were replaced in the semi-finished product tank storage area at Dr. Weigert. One of the tanks had reached the end of its service life while the other two were from the same model series. It was therefore decided to replace all three tanks in one project.

After manufacture and successful factory acceptance testing, the new tanks were transported to Hamburg as oversized loads. Because the tanks were located inside a building, it was not possible to transport them through the doors or across the production areas. The only way was through an opening in the roof. This required the temporary removal of pipework, maintenance walkways, and other system components. Two cranes were then used to safely remove the old tanks and install the new ones.

Each tank was manoeuvred into position centimetre by centimetre with great precision. Just a few days later, the new tanks were connected, the maintenance platforms were reinstalled, and the system was once again fully operational. Supply was maintained throughout, and the first tanker for pharmaceutical customers was even filled from the new tanks on schedule. This success demonstrates what can be accomplished at Dr. Weigert through technical expertise, teamwork, and careful planning.

Experience Dr. Weigert *in person*.

Visit us. For the latest information on trade fairs and events, **please scan the QR code** or visit our events calendar at www.drweigert.de.

Environmental considerations also play a role in the production of update.

The production of this publication included a financial contribution to the Gold Standard-certified 'Cookstoves, Uganda' climate protection project.

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Legal notice

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Müllerstraße 6 • D-21244 Buchholz
www.beisner-druck.de

DR. WEIGERT
SYSTEMATIC HYGIENE