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CHRISTIAENS GROUP



Pilzhof Wallhausen, Germany

For the Christiaens Group, 2008 was a top year. Just like the rest of the world, the mushroom sector has not escaped the grip of the crisis. This is especially true for expansion and new build projects. There are still plenty of plans, but the banks are holding back developments in the industry by providing only minimal funding. In cases where banks do cooperate or where there is state support or programmes, the projects go ahead. We just have to wait for better financial times, but all the same we have a confident view of the future.

We are noticing that companies have a growing need for the turnkey approach, where they try to realise projects with a minimum number of partners. The major advantages this offers include the much faster construction time, a far lower risk of errors and expert project management ultimately leading to a cheaper and better project. This turnkey market constitutes an important part of our sales. We would like to emphasise once again that you can still come to us for smaller items such as a single machine or fans.

The Christiaens Group has set up an internal training programme in which employees receive training in fields such as automation, (project) management and mushroom cultivation & composting. This last course aims to provide employees with a better understanding of the sector in which our customers operate. All these courses aim to serve our customers better.

We would also like to invite you to visit our newly designed website containing various information about our company, a selection of the completed projects, contact information, etc. [www.christiaens.com](http://www.christiaens.com)

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## Mycelco Abbotsford, BC, Canada

Mycelco is the name of the new tunnel complex owned by the Champs Group in Canada, a group of growers that jointly market their mushrooms and produce compost. Following an earlier investment in an indoor phase 1 complex, the group invested last year in an entirely new phase 2/3 tunnel complex.

The installation comprises a turn-key tunnel complex of 15 tunnels with a separate hall for filling and spawning, an emptying hall and a compost transport system running from the indoor complex to the new tunnels. The facility now supplies around 550 tons of phase 3 compost weekly to the farms, which are all equipped with a Dutch shelf system.

For filling activities at the farms, Christiaens supplied 5 hydraulic head end filling machines, with the corresponding equipment.

Mycelco has placed an order for further expansion of the tunnel complex.







## Monterey San Miguel De Allende, Mexico

Monterey Mushrooms is one of the largest producers of mushrooms in the world. One of its divisions is located in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico.

The company has recently made various expansions in relation to both its composting and growing operations. Christiaens delivered climate systems and control systems for 8 aerated floors. The most recent development is a new build farm, comprising 8 growing rooms, each of which measures 950m<sup>2</sup>. Each week, this farm produces approximately 32,000 kg of mushrooms. Christiaens supplied the climate control units, control system, watering system and boilers for these rooms. According to the general manager, 'it is important to invest in state-of-the-art technology'.



## Il Castello Vendemiano, Italy

Il Castello mushroom farm is an renovation project on a existing mushroom farm which was build in the sixties, with a total growing surface of 6444 m<sup>2</sup>.

Christiaens Controls designed and delivered a complete range of new air handling units, computer control, cooling-and heating system, and an automatic watering system. In August 2008, 18 growing rooms were equipped and put into operation. The total installation time was 3 months.

The renovations resulted in a better quality and a higher production according to the owner Egidio Giacomini. Since the mushroom farm is renovated, Il Castello is also a member of Consorzio Funghi di Treviso.





## Circeo Borgo San Donato, Italy

Fungicoltura del Circeo is an extension of a mushroom farm with 13 growing rooms of 324 m<sup>2</sup>. It is owned by the families Mattozzi, Azzola and Pezzali, and is the biggest stand alone mushroom farm in Italy. It has a total growing surface of 12.617 m<sup>2</sup>.

Christiaens Group designed, engineered, delivered, assembled and started up the mushroom farm as a turnkey project.



## Prinevskoe St. Petersburg, Russia

Prinevskoe placed an order with Christiaens for the supply of the entire technical installation and the complete interior of the growing farm, including the panels. This project is a farm consisting of 12 growing rooms in total, each measuring 530m<sup>2</sup>. Due to the extreme climate, a central air duct delivers pre-treated air to each individual air handling unit. The composting floor has also been covered so the company can continue working, even in extreme weather.

President Medvedev checks the quality at Prinevskoe...







## Laurel Valley Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

In early 2007, the Board of Directors of Laurel Valley took the decision to construct a tunnel complex to produce phase 2 compost. The installation consists of 10 tunnels, a filling hall, an emptying hall and a truck filling hall, as well as additional offices and control rooms. The tunnels are fully prepared for the production of phase 3 substrate in the near future.

Total construction time: 7 months.



## Leo & Son Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Leo & Son is one of the shareholders in the compost production company Laurel Valley. The farm consists of 20 growing rooms, each measuring 8100 square feet. As Leo & Son has a "Dutch shelf system farm", changing from phase 1 to phase 2 compost was a major advantage for the company. The filling costs and filling quality were considerably improved through the introduction of the new hydraulic head end filling machine. The quality and production have also increased significantly as a result. The machine is also fully ready for loading phase 3 substrate in the future. The customer is entirely satisfied with the machine, which has been in operation since April 2008.





# Bio Fungi KFT

## Aporka, Hungary

# Composting

Bio Fungi KFT was established in 1991 by Attila Mutsy and Attila Sugar, who were later joined by Arpad Mutsy. This new company built upon the expertise of Mutsy Senior, who in the past had already been a successful composter and mushroom grower in the former Yugoslavia. In the late 1990s, the first plans were drawn up for a new composting company. Following a cautious start, with 3 aerated floors, 3 pasteurisation tunnels and after unremitting efforts, the company was gradually expanded to reach its current size:

Pre-wet: Fully covered storage and mixing hall with aerated floors.

Phase 1: 5 aerated bunkers with overhead filler for the production of approximately 2,200 tonnes per week.

The air from both installations is cleaned and transported to a straw filter.

Phase 2/3: Modern tunnel plant with 24 tunnels, a bag filling line, a block filling line and a truck filling system.

At present, approximately 85% is delivered as phase 3 substrate, the majority of which is delivered in blocks or bags and a small portion of which is delivered in bulk. The sales market is primarily located in Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia and Slovenia.







## Growing

2007 saw the start of the construction of a modern shelf system farm.

The objective of this was twofold: on the one hand, the company wished to cease growing in caves, because this was becoming increasingly inefficient, and, on the other hand, the company wanted to build a model farm in order to convince its clients that a modern farm was both feasible for them and offered the best prospects for the future.

The farm was brought into production in May 2008 and was initially designed with 6 medium-sized growing rooms, each of which incorporated four rows of shelves, 6 beds high. The farm has a modular construction and the company is currently working on a subsequent expansion.

Bio Fungi also markets approximately 30,000 kg of mushrooms per week, 85% of which is cultivated by Bio Fungi. The primary markets for the mushrooms are Hungary, Austria and Italy.





## Vogelzangs Melderslo, Netherlands

In order to expand its production operations, the company opted to build a new farm, the aim of which was to achieve efficiency benefits through economy of scale. Four growing units were built during the first phase, each of which comprised 1728m<sup>2</sup> production area. 'The most significant reasons underlying our decision to do business with Christiaens were the company's knowledge and expertise in the construction of similar farms and the company's willingness to contribute ideas and assist in the development during the preliminary stages.' We were able to fill the first room within 6 months after the start of the construction.



## Willems Kessel, Netherlands

Due to the limited opportunities for expansion on the existing site and with a view to establishing uniform growing rooms, Willems BV decided to extend the oldest of the existing rooms and to replace the shelving systems with identical ones to those in the most recently constructed rooms. The production area of the 12 oldest rooms was increased from just over 600m<sup>2</sup> to 1476m<sup>2</sup> per room. Whilst the rooms were being renovated, growing continued for as long as possible in the existing rooms. The farm, which is run by just 8 people, now comprises 24 growing rooms, each of which measures 1476m<sup>2</sup>. This makes it one of the largest farms in Europe, with a production capacity of more than 15,000,000 kg./year.







## SIKES Ysselsteyn, Netherlands

Due to a rising demand and the fact that the existing installation was becoming outdated, Sikes decided to refurbish one of its existing farms, whilst at the same time increasing its production area by installing shelf systems with wider beds. The ceilings of the growing rooms have also been raised by approximately 20 centimetres to allow an additional bed to be installed. In addition to new shelving systems, almost all of the technical equipment has been modernised, including a new cooling system that facilitates heat recovery. The complete renovation took place within 12 weeks. The project now consists of 8 rooms, with each a production area of 1306m<sup>2</sup>. 'The decision to award the contract to Christiaens was partially based on the company's excellent price/quality ratio'.



## CCC Donkers Boekel, Netherlands

Within a time frame of 6 months, a complete new farm, including a spacious sorting hall, was constructed to replace the old farm. The farm now comprises 8 units, each of which measures 1613 m<sup>2</sup>. The company is able to adapt quickly to the varying demand from the market, thanks to a sorting installation that can sort the produce according to 9 different grades. Here also, one of the two cooling machines was designed with heat recovery. If necessary, the required heat is supplemented by the boiler.





# Walkro

## Maasmechelen, Belgium

Over the course of 2008, a new tunnel complex was constructed on the Maasmechelen site. The system consists of 23 tunnels for the production of phase 3 substrate. We were very pleased to be chosen to supply the machines for this site again. The phase 1 compost, which led to the existing tunnel plant via a long belt system, had to be interrupted in order to install a branch to the new system. Following a flawless assembly, the belt system and the tunnel filling and emptying system was up and running in mid-2008.







## CNC

## the Netherlands

CNC has been a familiar name within the Dutch mushroom industry for a number of decades. Many new developments in the sector can be traced back to CNC. CNC has its own fleet of vehicles and filling machines to serve its clients and to fill beds. The company opted to use the hydraulic head filling machines offered by Christiaens to replace its outdated machines.



## Tunnel Tech North Doncaster, Great Britain

Following a difficult period the mushroom industry in the UK, helped by the low sterling/euro exchange rate, is starting to recover. In order to meet the new demand Tunnel Tech North has recently completed a major renovation of the entire installation. 7 new phase 1 bunkers have been constructed with Christiaens spigot floors to improve the quality of phase 1. Also the complete filling installation in the phase 2 tunnels has been renewed so that filling can take place faster, better and more efficiently.





# Christiaens Group

| the power of combined experience |

## Projects in progress:

Warwick Mushrooms, USA

Rossmore Mushrooms, Australia

Adelaide Mushrooms, Australia

Mushroom Exchange, Australia

Elf farm Supplies, Australia

Whitefields, Germany

Kania, Poland

Bio Fungi, Hungary

Champinter, Spain

Loveday Mushrooms, Canada

Mycelco, Canada

Tunneltech North, England

Busambra, Italy

Miva Dimitrov, Bulgaria

Pilzhof, Germany

Loonbedrijf Wieman, Netherlands

Gulf Mushrooms, Oman

25 growing rooms

18 growing rooms

32 growing rooms

9 Phase 2/3 tunnels

9 Phase 2/3 tunnels

7 growing rooms

8 bunkers and 22 Phase 2/3 tunnels

1 growing room

4 Phase 1 bunkers

Machineries

Expansion Phase 2/3 tunnels

Machineries

Growing farm

Bunker filling machine

Compost machines

Head end filling machine

Growing equipment

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