



DOWNPASS STARS

OBB Oberbadische Bettfedernfabrik
Creativity with values and core identity



The medium-sized company OBB Oberbadische Bettfedernfabrik GmbH with its 50 employees has been manufacturing duvets, pillows and mattress toppers in the border triangle of Germany, Switzerland and France for more than 70 years. Characterised by its closeness to nature in the Black Forest and its respect for traditional values, the fully integrated company feels a special responsibility towards people, animals and the environment - this includes environmentally friendly production with a deep well of their own, water recycling plant and combined heat and power plant. The team is currently undergoing the certification process for "OEKO TEX STEP" and the "Green Button".



Downpass talked to Petra Schweigert and Bastian Roscheck, managing partners of OBB Oberbadische Bettfedernfabrik GmbH.

The beginnings of OBB can be traced back to 1900. In 1948, the company was rebuilt under its current name in Lörrach in the Black Forest. Last year, you launched your first organic collection. What influence do values such as tradition and the love of home and nature have on your entrepreneurial work?

These values are, so to speak, the basis of our work. It is not without reason that our most important collections have the name of our homeland: "Schwarzwald" / "Black Forest". It is a challenge to bring tradition in

harmony with innovative ideas, or in other words, how creative can we be in product development without losing our core identity. Because another driving force of ours is to constantly develop products that optimize sleeping comfort.



OBB had two reasons to be happy this year: It received two German Brand Awards 2021 for its "OBB Sensitive" collection - in the "Brand Innovation of the year" and "Interior & Living" categories. What is special about this collection and how important is brand communication for you and your retail partners?

The OBB Sensitive collection includes bedding with protective and caring properties for the skin, and with a lasting effect, i.e., even after years of use and washing the textiles. The clear basic statement of all tests conducted is that due to the antibacterial and/or antimicrobial and/or antiviral smartcel™ sensitive fibers, colonization of the cover with bacteria, fungi, viruses and/or other microbes can be reduced or even avoided. OBB Sensitive bedding also remains longer hygienic and needs to be cleaned less often.

Since our core competence and also our heart and soul clearly lie in bedding filled with down and feathers, the greatest challenge for us was to develop a down-proof fabric with an effective proportion of the smartcel™ sensitive fiber. We succeeded in doing so, and as a result we were the first and only company to develop various down-proof fabrics with the smartcel™ sensitive fibers and apply for a patent.

With the brand "OBB Sensitive" we want to be understood as what we are: a company that works on sleep problems with innovative solutions, because at the end of the day, or to us it is rather "at the end of the night", we only want one thing: that everyone can sleep well and of course preferably in our beautiful bedding!

As one of the last fully integrated bed feather factories in Germany and with a production area of 17,000 m², you monitor all work steps from incoming goods to the last seam on the finished bedding item. How indispensable is a well-functioning control system and what was crucial for the decision to set up your own certified laboratory where you can check fabrics and filling materials continuously?





Petra Schweigert
Managing partner

We consider our fully integrated production, including our own laboratory at our location in Lörrach as a great fortune, because only this way it is possible for us to constantly check our quality standard in all production steps. Therefore, we have also made major investments in the expansion of our production and storage areas in the last two years, in order to create the prerequisites for the constant growth and efficiency of the production processes, as well as to make production more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Our laboratory is managed by a very experienced employee. Just now we have again successfully passed the EDFA round robin test in the first attempt.



How important are independent certifications for your success and why do you rely on the DOWN-PASS seal as a sign of animal welfare & quality?

In general, certifications are of course becoming more and more important. They will certainly become increasingly important for success, but first and foremost the standards of the certifications give us a good guideline as to whether we are "on the right track".

Those who know OBB understand that we have always been pioneers when it comes to animal welfare. We have always rejected any form of feather and down extraction from live animals. Of course, it is also important to be able to communicate this to the outside world. The DOWNPASS offers us the transparency we want to have internally and of course also externally to make sure that we process down and feathers neither from live animals nor from foie gras production.



Bastian Roscheck
Managing partner



Another benefit for us is that, in addition to animal welfare aspects, the DOWNPASS is the only standard that also tests product quality in terms of consumer protection.

Source: Downpass e.V.