



Innovating a sustainable future.

Annual Report **20
25**

Highlights 2025

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The Company Portrait is published in
German and English. The German version
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For reasons of better readability, the
language forms male, female and diverse
(m/f/d) are not used simultaneously.
All personal designations apply equally
to all genders.

PHYSICAL AI

Translating cutting-edge research into marketable solutions



Artificial intelligence is about to take its next major leap into the future: the connection of AI to the physical world. “Physical AI” allows systems like robots to perceive their environment, understand it, and interact with it autonomously and flexibly. Owing to the world-class

research at our universities, led by ETH Zürich and EPFL in Lausanne, Switzerland is an industrial hub with huge potential to transform these new technologies into marketable applications and bring them to market.

Combining scientific research findings with business practice, the Helbling Group plays a key bridging role in this process. Our interdisciplinary and methodologically sound approach consistently focuses on responsible and commercially viable implementation. Physical AI, specifically, integrates sensors for perception, large reasoning models for thinking, and actuators for action into a system that operates flawlessly and can be reliably controlled.

The applications for physical AI are extremely varied. Markets relevant to Helbling include

industry and manufacturing; logistics, transport and mobility; as well as medical technology, healthcare, construction, and infrastructure. Developing the enormous market potential offered up by these fields is, alongside developing innovations for the sustainability sector, one of our strategic focal points.

On behalf of the Helbling Group partners

Dr. Christian Péclat
Chairman of the Board

49,000 hrs

Education and training

Over the course of the year, Helbling employees spent an average of 80 hours on further training. This training took place through both internal channels and external providers.

Established in 1963

Helbling offers experience gained from thousands of projects over six decades, combined with the latest thinking and state-of-the-art technologies. This forms the foundation for the development of innovative products and solutions by our engineering and consulting specialists.

119.7M_{CHF}

Revenue

The year was characterized by a reluctance to invest in the manufacturing sector. Paired with the strengthening of the Swiss franc against the US dollar and the euro, consolidated revenue declined by 6.5%.

>63%

Equity ratio

The Helbling Group's stable financial position is one of the key conditions for its sustainable growth. Thanks to a high equity ratio and extremely strong liquidity, Helbling has an outstanding credit rating for a privately owned SME.

42

Partners

The 42 partners and 310 employees who hold participation certificates are co-owners of the Group. This model ensures stability, safeguards our independence, and facilitates the execution of a long-term business strategy.

500

Clients

Helbling's clients include large corporations, SMEs, and, increasingly, start-ups. The Group primarily serves companies from almost all sectors of the manufacturing industry. Helbling also serves clients in the services sector and the public sector.

586

Full-time equivalents

The Group has 620 employees with an average employment rate of 94%. In 2025, 42 new employment contracts were signed.

38%

Revenue outside Switzerland

Helbling serves clients from 22 countries. Clients in Germany and the United States each accounted for 13% of total revenue.

65,000 hrs

Developing services

In the past year the equivalent of almost 40 years of work have been invested into developing our services to keep pace with technological advances and provide our clients with an even better service.

2025: Bright spots in a challenging business year

Looking back, 2025 was a challenging business year for the Helbling Group. Revenue fell by 6.5% compared to the previous year to CHF 120 million. Almost all of this decline was attributable to the Helbling Technik division. The collapse in demand for pure software development and postponed investments by our industrial clients had a particularly strong impact. This hit us hard. As a result, we reduced our workforce and were forced to implement reduced working hours for several months.

Our other business divisions performed well against this backdrop. Helbling Business Advisors benefited from AI's growing role in the quality control of manufacturing processes. In Germany demand for services in the restructuring and financing sectors also increased. At the same time,

conditions in our second-largest market remained challenging. The crisis in the German automotive industry alongside high energy prices weighed heavily on the business, particularly in the Helbling Technik division. Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung executed major contracts in Switzerland in the building construction, civil engineering, and infrastructure sectors. Helbling PLM Solutions continued to distinguish itself as a solution-independent consultant for PLM systems.

Business in the USA was encouraging. Alongside the medical technology sector, the logistics market and warehouse automation became increasingly important. Nonetheless, recruiting specialists remained challenging. Therefore, teams in Switzerland handled some of the US contracts. This required flexibility.

“Flexibility and openness to change are essential for driving transformation and innovation; our track record and corporate culture provide a strong foundation for achieving this.”

Dr. Urban Schnell

Confidence in a challenging business environment

Geopolitical upheavals and unanswered questions surrounding tariffs reduced the willingness of many companies to invest and sharpened their awareness of costs. It is against this backdrop that the Helbling Group has to draw on its strengths with even greater determination. One such strength is our ability to quickly provide clients from different sectors with a well-oiled team of highly qualified specialists, even at short notice. Another opportunity stems from Switzerland's strength as a global leader in high-tech precision engineering, medical technology, chemistry and pharmaceuticals, robotics, specialized machinery manufacturing, and AI applications.



Dr. Urban Schnell
CEO, Partner



Marcel Fäh
CFO, Partner

Sustainability that makes a difference

When relevance isn't defined by trends

In 2025, the topic of sustainability slipped down the priority list in public discourse. But for Helbling and the majority of our clients it remained highly relevant. Particularly in areas where investments, technological development, and business decisions have long-term effects, sustainability cannot be treated as a short-term issue. This is why we have consistently pursued our sustainability strategy – across projects, among our individual business divisions, and through group-wide initiatives.

Making sustainability tangible

Helbling has the greatest impact in client projects with a clear contribution to sustainability. In the Technology division we supported a world-leading pharmaceutical company to develop a sustainability assessment for technological solutions as part of a new platform for administering specialized medications. For a multinational food and beverage company we developed a toolbox that enables the implementation of the eco-design strategy in research and development, as well as among Tier 1 suppliers. In our management consulting practice, we worked with an equipment manufacturer to analyze the rapidly growing global market for data centers. We then developed a business model that enables these high energy

demands – particularly in the hyperscale segment – to be met through environmentally sustainable systems capable of operating off grid. The Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung division is also responsible for coordinating the complex renovation project surrounding the safe clearance of the former Mitholz munitions depot.

Embedding sustainability in the everyday

Making sustainability effective requires more than just good intentions. It must be embedded in processes, budgets and responsibilities. Team-specific sustainability goal setting, along with regular reporting, is firmly embedded in the budgeting process. In 2025 a key focus was developing our services and methodologies further. These include eco-ideation, eco-design, lifecycle analyses, and tools for reducing the use of plastics in devices. Teams worked in parallel on the ecological improvement of the company's own infrastructure. The focus was on decarbonizing the company's own buildings, installing charging stations, and implementing environmentally friendly server environments. Voluntary employee engagement also remained an integral part of this journey, for example in developing assistive devices for people with disabilities or community waste management solutions.

Establishing group-wide standards

At the Group level we systematically expanded our reporting. Building on our first internal sustainability report, we developed and published a comprehensive sustainability report for the reporting year 2024. It is aimed at all relevant stakeholders, follows the GRI Standards, and showcases all aspects of our sustainability concept – from customers and innovation to organization, culture, and networking, right through to employees. Particular attention was paid to the ongoing measurement of our greenhouse gas footprint in accordance with the GHG Protocol. As expected, the majority of emissions come from the mobility sector. Our participation in the Swiss Green Economy Symposium is also worth highlighting. Our cross-divisional presence – featuring an exhibition booth, panel discussion, and breakout sessions – was met with a very positive response.

The next steps

Looking ahead to 2026 our focus is further decarbonisation measures in the mobility sector. In this context, we will develop our emissions targets in accordance with the Science Based Targets Initiative's criteria, with validation carried out by SBTi Services. We also plan to establish the EcoVadis Rating across the Group. Other priorities remain

increasing the proportion of female employees and pursuing AI maturity. Our aim is to foster a culture and the necessary skills for employees to use AI tools effectively in their daily work. At the same time, processes will be accelerated using AI, and we will develop new services to help customers become more successful through the targeted use of AI.



Thomas Bertschinger
Managing Director
Helbling Business Advisors,
Partner & Head of Sustainability
Helbling Group

Customer success driven by conviction

Our impact

As an engineering and consulting partner, we support our clients in industry, services, and the public sector as they navigate increasingly complex futures. Together, we develop solutions for product development, real estate, energy and infrastructure projects, combining technological innovation, economic impact, and social relevance. We also provide strategic and operational business advice.



advantages. In consultancy projects we map out transformations and oversee their implementation. Combining consulting and technology expertise enables highly effective implementation – driving better decisions, reduced risks, and more reliable results. This creates an impact that endures.

Our principles

Innovating a sustainable future. This guiding principle shapes our work. Our efforts are consistently focused on strengthening the long-term future viability of our clients. We do this with technological excellence, extensive experience, entrepreneurial thinking, and collaborative partnerships characterized by a willingness to go the extra mile. This has an impact far beyond individual projects.

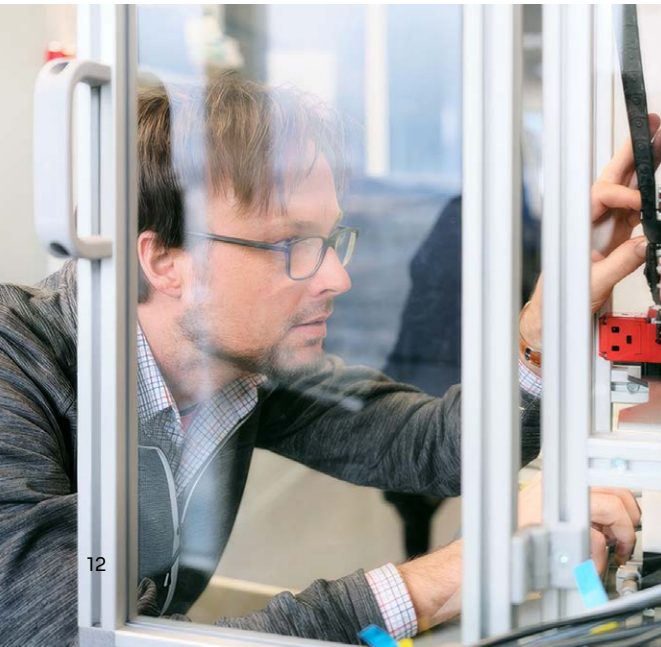
Helping customers find their way amid uncertainty

Our work begins where critical, far-reaching decisions must be made. This requires courage, as new paths rarely come without risk. It requires sound judgment because decisions are made under conditions of uncertainty. And it requires speed since substantial results must be achieved within a short period of time. At the same time our clients' landscape is actively changing. Digitalization, AI agents and Physical AI, health, safety, mobility, and sustainability are shaping products, processes, and business models. The projects in this report demonstrate the broad impact of these developments – and how we are translating them into concrete solutions.

Creating measurable value

Our goal is clear – to create quantifiable and long-lasting value for our clients. For a project to be economically viable, the benefits must far exceed our costs. We achieve this with an accelerated time to market, faster break-even points, and the consequent realization of potential that, without our support, would often be approached more cautiously or only partially realized. Alongside the financial impact, we contribute additional expertise, experience, and resources, thereby facilitating projects that would otherwise not take place in a timely manner or at all.

Development projects generate intellectual property that gives our clients long-term competitive



APELLIS PHARMACEUTICAL INC.

Virtual Reality- based assessment of human visual function



Stephan Wyder
Senior Project Lead,
Helbling Technik, Bern

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a common eye disease that impairs vision. Together with Apellis Pharmaceutical Inc., we have developed an innovative VR-based vision test that can objectively measure the progression of AMD.

Although the disease cannot currently be cured, it can be stabilized with appropriate therapies. For the development and approval of these therapies, Apellis is interested in methods to reliably demonstrate their effectiveness. For this purpose, we evaluated and selected suitable VR headsets and developed vision tests based on them, enabling even small changes in disease progression to be detected. A particular challenge is that VR headsets were originally designed for other applications. For example, the limited quality of the optics must be taken into account and, where necessary, compensated for by intelligent algorithms. One of our vision tests uses a VR headset to determine the patient's contrast sensitivity within a few minutes, from which the severity of the disease can be derived. In doing so, we make use of an unconscious, highly characteristic reflex of the eye that can be detected even with the limited eye tracking capabilities of today's VR headsets.

“Working with Helbling has been a highly collaborative and efficient partnership, translating complex technical constraints into practical, high-quality innovative solutions.”

Deepayan Kar
Senior Scientist,
Translational Development



BUCHER INDUSTRIES AG

Accelerating innovation with AI



©Bucher Industries, Niederweningen (Switzerland)

“Helbling provided us with inspiring ideas for successful innovation management. Passionate about the subject matter + humble in demeanor – they know what they’re doing!”

Jacques Sanche
CEO Bucher Industries



Stefan Baldenweg
Managing Director,
Helbling Business Advisors, Switzerland

When Bucher Industries brought together 50 executives, the potential of AI – as a tool that accelerates innovation, hones product ideas, and makes knowledge actionable – became clear. The workshop by Helbling gave this potential the structure, methodology, and pace required for implementation.

AI gains traction

At Bucher Industries the focus wasn't on the next wave of technological innovation, but rather on a practical question: how can we use AI to genuinely accelerate innovative product development? The workshop by Helbling brought this to life, equipping around 50 executives with relevant practical methods to put their knowledge into practice.

Methods born of curiosity

That is where the real work began. In working groups, Helbling combined AI tools, structured methods, and concrete use cases in such a way that participants could immediately apply them to their own challenges. The results achieved in a short period of time highlighted the potential of AI and resulted in a workable, methodical approach.

People remain the bigger force

The most important insight appeared almost obvious, but has wide-reaching implications: AI can only reach its full potential when industry know-how, strategic thinking and foresight, set the direction. With this in mind, Bucher Industries now aims to permanently integrate AI into its innovation process.

The electric backbone driving the fleet

When the last busses arrive at the depot at night, the operation comes alive on electricity. Helbling designed a charging infrastructure for Chur Bus that does far more than just supply electricity, making the switch to an electric fleet reliable, cost-efficient, and environmentally friendly.

The transition to electric buses is decided in the depot. This is where Helbling stepped in to assist Chur Bus. The team analyzed the network, route plans, and seasonally varying energy requirements in order to calculate the fleet's power requirements when in regular operation, while also taking operational uncertainties into account. A scalable charging concept was developed based on this analysis, ensuring reliable operation and taking future expansion into account.

A key aspect of the planning was managing the waste heat generated by the inverters during charging. Using CFD simulations, Helbling optimized the arrangement of the

inverters and design of the cooling ventilation systems, and investigated ideas for utilizing the waste heat. Alongside the technical design, the team calculated the costs over the infrastructure's entire lifecycle. The effects of load management, stationary temporary storage batteries, and PV were systematically analyzed as part of this process. A lifecycle assessment demonstrated emission reductions across the entire system.

The result is a solution ready for implementation that secures the long-term operation of Chur Bus, and has been incorporated into the Federal Office of Transport's guidelines as a blueprint for other bus operators.



Thibault Martin
Project Engineer,
Helbling Technik, Aarau



Alexander Weiser
Project Engineer,
Helbling Technik, Aarau



The project was carried out by an interdisciplinary team specializing in e-mobility, energy systems, and transportation planning. The team was complemented by our CFD experts who carried out thermal simulation of the charging infrastructure. Close cooperation with Chur Bus, the energy supplier, and the authorities ensured a practical, implementation-oriented solution.

MITHOLZ

Coordinating the clearance of a former munitions depot

Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung AG relies on an experienced team of civil engineers, geologists, and environmental engineers to oversee the planning process. The core team is made up of Michèle Herren, Martin Hase, Hans Zeltner, and Olivia Champion.



Olivia Champion
Senior Expert,
Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung, Zurich

Clearance as a sustainable solution

In 1947 explosions involving stored ammunition occurred in an underground Swiss Army munitions depot in Mitholz. To this day, up to 3,500 gross tons of munitions remain in the former railway tunnel beneath the scree in front of the Fluh and in the village's blast zones. Clearance of the remaining munitions will reduce the risks to a level that will guarantee Mitholz's future safety.

The project comprises four main phases: preliminary measures, protective measures for roads and rail, preparations for clearance, and clearance and disposal of the remaining munitions. The restoration and repopulation of Mitholz will follow. The term of the contract with Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung AG is 10 years, with the possibility of extension.

Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung AG's main responsibilities for this long-term project include:

- Coordinating, planning and managing 6 subprojects and 2 cross-cutting issues
- Developing and managing the schedule
- Coordinating the content, timing and spatial planning of the subprojects
- Consolidating all subproject contributions at the project level for planning approval
- Coordinating the building construction phase between subprojects

OERTLI INSTRUMENTE AG

PLM makes the difference in day-to-day operations

When it comes to IT projects, the moment immediately after going live can be a sensitive one. At Oertli Instrumente AG, however, this moment marked a new beginning. With the first phase of its PLM digitalization initiative, carried out in collaboration with Helbling, the company established clear processes and reliable structures, and has now laid the groundwork for further steps in its transformation.



Mathias Lindt
Senior Vice President, Helbling PLM Solutions, Zurich

Following the successful launch, what really matters in a PLM transformation became clear – that is, processes that actually work in day-to-day operations. At Oertli Instrumente AG, the first phase of the digitalization initiative integrated the PLM foundation into day-to-day operations and established clear structures across the entire product lifecycle. This increased efficiency and quality, and paved the way for the next steps in the digitalization process.

Helbling led the project as a PLM consultant and client project manager, bringing together management, the core team, and software partners to form a unified working group. The value lay in the holistic approach. Helbling translated business requirements into technical solutions, involved the organization early on, and contributed targeted expertise in ERP interfaces and computerized system validation (CSV).

As the team actively supported the transformation within the company, the typical challenges associated with large-scale IT projects remained manageable. As a result, Oertli achieved more than just a successful launch – it also gained a PLM transformation with a lasting impact.

“They engaged our key users really effectively. They are competent at leading project teams. They remain transparent and solution-oriented even during turbulent times. They are a trusted partner of ours.”

Christoph Bosshard
CoCEO, Development | Operations | Services
Oertli Instrumente AG

QIAGEN GMBH

Diagnostics never sleeps



Time runs differently in the laboratory. Samples must be identified, prioritized, and guided through the workflow without delay. With the QIAstat-Dx Rise Platform, Helbling – in partnership with QIAGEN – developed a high-throughput system for large hospitals and laboratories that brings a reliable sense of order to this complex process.

When time decides

In syndromic testing, speed alone is not sufficient. A system must reliably identify samples, track cartridges seamlessly/ end-to-end, and prioritize urgent tests without delays; otherwise operations come under pressure. This was precisely the scenario QIAGEN envisaged when the company developed the QIAstat-Dx Rise platform for large hospitals and laboratories.

When the system sets priorities

Helbling developed the Benchtop System together with QIAGEN, collaborating at all stages, from the initial idea and concept phase to successful verification and batch production for the regulatory market. At the centre of the system is an optimized loading and robotics system that automatically recognizes the sample type in the cartridges, handles their digital tracking,

and immediately orders urgent analyses. This enhances testing efficiency. In addition, the narrow tower design optimizes sample throughput per square meter of laboratory bench space. Above all, however, it tangibly reduces walkaway times and reduces the daily load of laboratory staff. The laboratory becomes a calmer place with each passing day.

A product born of precision

In parallel with the technology, industrial designers and engineers developed a device in close collaboration with QIAGEN that fulfills product requirements, has a modern look, and offers outstanding user-friendliness. In just 20 months the product went from initial vision to successful verification. In so doing, QIAGEN is laying the groundwork for further expansion in the rapidly growing syndromic testing market.



Fabian Kappeler
Team Section Lead
Embedded Medical Software
& Smart Devices,
Helbling Technik, Wil



André Morger
Head of Development Team
Medical & Lab Systems,
Helbling Technik, Wil

mSCWO Test Rig: Greater control, greater potential



For the Georgia Institute of Technology, the mSCWO technology was implemented as one of the core modules of the Generation 2 Reinvented Toilet. To further advance the robustness and understanding, a dedicated test system was developed that isolates the reactor and enables precise investigation with a high degree of experimental flexibility.

Challenge and solution

Supercritical water oxidation places extreme demands on materials, system design, and control stability. At the same time, it can be used to address a critical global issue since this can be used to fully oxidize wastewater. Roughly half of the world's population lacks access to safe and adequate sanitation.

Previously, the mSCWO technology was embedded within a complex overall system. For controlled process development, a dedicated test platform was required that allows temperature, pressure, residence time, and energy flows to be systematically varied and precisely measured. The solution was a clearly focused mSCWO Test Rig. Within approximately six months, five identical high pressure test units were built, commissioned, and delivered. This platform enables reproducible experimentation, forming the basis for data-driven optimization.

Results and achievements

In this project, Helbling brought together its core competencies in mechanical engineering,

electrical engineering, software development, and process engineering. Design, safety concept, control cabinet layout, and control architecture were developed in parallel and carefully aligned.

The structured collaboration across disciplines enabled efficient execution of analysis, design, and system integration under demanding conditions. The project strengthened Helbling's position as a system integrator for complex, safety-critical process systems.

During a weeklong workshop with international partners, the system was presented in hands-on sessions, enabling effective knowledge transfer. This resulted in concrete follow up projects in related technological fields.

Future relevance

With the mSCWO Test Rig, a standardized high pressure test platform is now available for the first time, enabling systematic advancement of supercritical water oxidation. The system provides the foundation for scalable process optimization, new application areas, and validation under varying input conditions.

Beyond sanitation, the platform opens opportunities for additional organic waste streams and industrial applications. It forms the basis for future technology partnerships, industrial scaling, and new development projects in sustainable process systems.



Christian Seiler
Senior Vice President, Partner,
Helbling Technik, Wil



Armin Picononi
Project Lead,
Helbling Technik, Wil

“The Helbling team did an exceptional job delivering a very difficult and demanding engineering project on time and within budget, while integrating multiple specialized engineering disciplines.”

Prof. Shannon Yee
directs the Scalable Thermal
Energy Engineering Laboratory at
Georgia Institute of Technology



NESTLÉ NESPRESSO

Vertuo Up – Robust by design. Built for real consumer value

The latest Nespresso Vertuo Up coffee machine was designed to offer consumers a faster, more versatile, and more convenient coffee experience, from its three second heat up to its slim design and new iced coffee functionality.



Markus Lang
Head of Development Team
Compact Appliances & Equipment,
Helbling Technik, Bern



Marcel Fankhauser
Team Section Lead
Handheld Tools & Gadgets,
Helbling Technik, Bern

Challenge and solution

As part of this development, Nestlé worked with Helbling on a defined set of systems engineering activities that supported the machine's journey from early concept to production readiness, while ensuring clarity of system requirements, and helping build a design aimed at delivering reliable and consistent quality at scale.

Results and achievements

The team at Helbling brought strong technical expertise and a collaborative spirit to the partnership. Their methodical approach and solution oriented mindset helped Nespresso navigate complex challenges and contributed to a smooth and effective collaboration, enabling the delivery of a machine that meets consumers' expectations for quality and ease of use.

“The result reflects not only technical excellence, but also a partnership built on trust and shared objectives. It has been a highly professional and value-creating collaboration.”

Nicola Ladisa
Project Manager,
Nespresso Vertuo Platform

Going deeper into value creation

“ Helbling identified suitable takeover targets for us and oversaw the process with great clarity and reliability – and with an in-depth knowledge of the market. In doing so, they made a key contribution to the success of this SWK project.”

Carsten Liedtke
Board Spokesman,
SWK Stadtwerke Krefeld AG

In the end, only one number appears on the electricity meter. The actual course is set much earlier – involving participations, partnerships, and new skills. Helbling developed an M&A strategy that would allow SWK Stadtwerke Krefeld to make greater advances in creating value in renewable energy and to strengthen its position significantly in the long term.

Beyond merely sourcing energy

The move towards renewable energy is putting increased pressure on providers, who are now expected to strike a new balance between security of supply, regulation, and green energy production. This also prompted SWK to move beyond mere procurement and to systematically expand access to renewable energy. Rather than a single deal, it was looking for a way that would allow the company to become more actively involved in value creation, while at the same time reducing future procurement risks.

A mission based on market analysis

Together with SWK, Helbling developed a project strategy for the renewable energy market. Based on this, the team subjected the relevant market to a systematic analysis, screening potential acquisition candidates and gradually determining which participation was the best fit for SWK's strategic direction. This approach involved far more than long-listing potential acquisitions. Rather, Helbling oversaw the entire transaction process – from making initial contact, evaluating companies, and coordinating due diligence assessments to

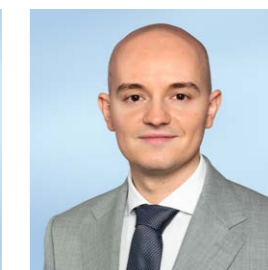
conducting negotiations and the structuring of the final transaction. This allowed SWK not only to gain pace but above all to orient itself effectively in a market under huge competitive pressure.

A clearer definition of value creation

The process culminated in SWK's strategic participation in FRONTERIS Gruppe. With its expertise in developing wind and photovoltaic projects, FRONTERIS enables SWK to expand its competences along the value chain and to strengthen its own production capacities more effectively. This strategic participation has introduced the company to large-scale storage solutions and to an energy system in which control over production, marketing, and optimization is becoming a crucial lever. It is here that M&A demonstrates its greatest strength – not as a transaction for its own sake but rather as a strategic tool for meeting the energy needs of tomorrow.



Daniel Jürgenschellert
Managing Director, Partner,
Helbling Business Advisors,
Düsseldorf



Eduard Dorzweiler
Senior Manager,
Helbling Business Advisors,
Düsseldorf



CDDS AG

When every millisecond counts

When just a few milliseconds can make all the difference, a drone needs to be able to do more than fly at very high speeds. Helbling helped Swiss start-up CDDS to develop an early concept into a powerful prototype that is capable of detecting, tracking, and intercepting foreign drones independently.

At the beginning, there was a vision, an early concept idea and a challenging brief: to develop an interceptor drone capable of a consistently stable response even when faced with great relative velocities and comparatively high latencies. Together with CDDS, Helbling defined the requirements for control, sensor technology, and system architecture, and developed the necessary navigation and target detection algorithms for reliable interception.

“ Thanks to Helbling’s excellent interdisciplinary team, we were able to develop a powerful system very quickly in an extremely competitive environment.”

Patrik Bertschi
Chief Technology Officer,
CDDS AG

A modular simulation and testing environment based on Gazebo, ROS2, and PX4 was set up, permitting rapid iterations and parallel software development. The system’s performance was founded on its combination of AI-based object recognition, robust state estimation, model-based control, and highly accurate navigation. Because simulation, integration into real hardware, and extensive field testing were all closely interlinked, it was possible to put the impressive new solution through its paces in highly realistic scenarios. And the system is able to detect and intercept incoming drones with great precision and reliability.



Jonas Eichenberger
Head of Development Team
Robotics, Helbling Technik, Zurich



Romeo Staub
Project Lead,
Helbling Technik, Bern

Extract from the interview on sustainability at Helbling

The Helbling Group has a “federal organizational model”. With that in mind, how can you create a common understanding of sustainability with a view to fulfilling the claim “Innovating a sustainable future”?

Christian Péclat:

“At Group level, we have shared rules, such as the guiding principles, the rules of procedure, the sustainability declaration, and the recently implemented mobility framework.”

According to the aforementioned sustainability declaration, the Helbling Group undertakes to minimize its own environmental footprint. What is being done at the total of ten sites? And what is the focus of the corporate citizenship activities?

Laura Murer Mecattaf:

“We now also measure our carbon footprint, and each division is expected to set its own sustainability targets and track their implementation on an annual basis.”

Christian Péclat:

“Public transport links are a primary criterion in our decision when choosing a business location.”

You have made a commitment to increase female representation. What has been done and what has changed in recent years?

Laura Murer Mecattaf:

“You simply have to set a good example and try to coach young women so that they take up and also continue a technically-focused professional career.”

Highlights from the 2024 key figures

3.6 t

CO₂ equivalents per FTE (Scope 1, 2 and 3)

16.8%

share of women (across the Group)

8.4%

employee turnover

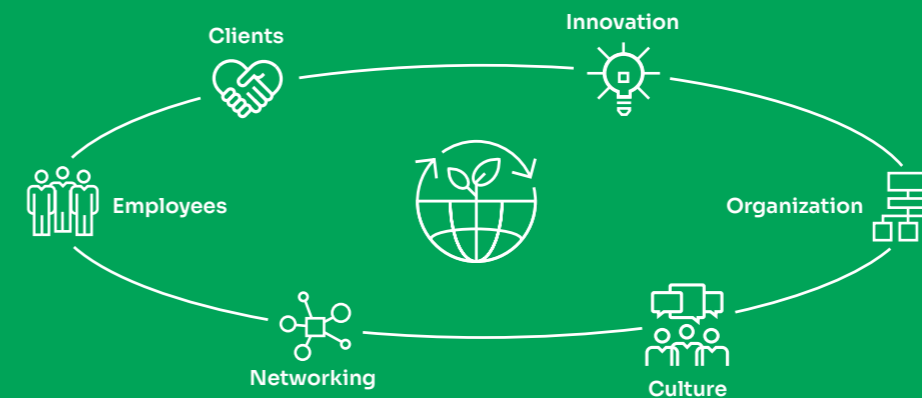
20+

publications and presentations on sustainability

160,000+

hours on projects that make a demonstrable contribution to sustainability

Sustainability declaration of the Helbling Group



DEEP DIVE

You can find the entire sustainability report via this QR code.

HELBLING TECHNIK

Innovation, together we do it



Helbling Technik is the independent partner of choice for innovation and R&D services – from initial idea to market launch. We help companies to translate their technological edge into clear economic added value.

Technology and markets are changing rapidly. Today's companies need to develop high-performance products that are both sustainable and digitally networked. At the same time, customers and markets expect smart data usage and increasingly short development cycles. As a result, pressure is mounting on two fronts, with products increasing in complexity as time windows shrink. This is the very backdrop against which Helbling Technik is helping its clients to channel technological capabilities into marketable solutions. And allows them to manage innovation effectively, even under intense time pressure.

We are at our clients' side throughout the entire innovation process. This begins with ideation – i.e. determining which idea is the right one – and ranges from technology development and product design to industrialization. With product lifecycle management projects, we continue to play a relevant role even after the product itself has been launched. In this way, we combine technological excellence with commercial success – not just in specific areas but throughout a product's entire lifecycle.

When developing physical and digital products, we integrate all relevant disciplines: UX design, mechanics, electronics, software, numerical simulation, and production engineering. The big picture is what matters – we view each product as a system in which components, data, user requirements, and production factors all interact with

one another. In a structured development process with qualified methods, we produce technically sound solutions that deliver in practice and create lasting added value.

Modern development tools, digital methods, and in-depth engineering expertise help us to identify risks early on and to make development cycles significantly shorter. This fast pace is achieved not by cutting corners but by striving for clarity in our work. Early insight into interdependencies enable teams to make well-founded decisions, rapidly evaluate alternatives, and ensure more robust development outcomes. This in turn reduces the time-to-market for products without losing sight of technical quality or practicability.

Our specialist teams are networked around the globe, with nine locations in Switzerland, Germany, China, Poland and the USA. This structure combines state-of-the-art development and laboratory infrastructure with in-depth methodological expertise and a culture of open collaboration. At the same time, dedicated organizational units provide the kind of specialization needed by highly demanding projects of this nature. This leads to growing domain knowledge from the industrialization of high-volume consumer goods, normative requirements in medical technology and the food industry to cyber security of digitally networked products.

At the heart of this is our team of creative, highly qualified specialists who translate requirements into market-ready products and whose expertise, pragmatism, and passion shape the way we work. This is complemented by in-depth expertise in generative artificial intelligence, data science, ecodesign, optics, edge computing, and precision manufacturing. All of which leads to innovation that delivers maximum reliability from a technical, commercial, and sustainable perspective.



HELBLING BUSINESS ADVISORS

Shaping a sustainable future

Helbling Business Advisors provide industrial companies with expert advice on dealing with strategic, operational, and financial turning points in their business. Together with our clients, we develop viable solutions and implement them effectively.

When industrial companies are setting a new course, they need more than just a smart plan of action. They need to make decisions that give a clear sense of direction and that prove their

worth in everyday working life. This is where Helbling Business Advisors comes in. Our teams have first-hand experience of the realities of industry and are used to working close to the action, which is of vital importance. We develop viable strategies and streamline organizational structures, paving the way for profitable growth and sustainable business models. We improve value chains, boost effectiveness, and make smarter use of resources – which also helps to reduce emissions.

In the digital transformation, we shape integrated processes from product innovation to order processing, and oversee SAP-S/4HANA transformations in particular. When companies come under pressure, we work closely with their management teams to stabilize their earnings and capital base.

Our industry knowledge and international reach also come to the fore with regard to transactions. As a founding member of Corporate Finance International, we provide access to investors and targets all over the world – and the kind of expert advice that helps to shape the future effectively. This client proximity is particularly important in difficult phases because financial stabilization and strategic reorientation only take effect when decisions are implemented resolutely – and because speed ultimately determines the scope for action.



HELBLING BERATUNG + BAUPLANUNG

Project implementation in safe hands



When it comes to challenging projects, Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung brings interdisciplinary focus and objective advice to the table, with clear benefits for its clients.

In the modern world, planning construction work means dealing with ever-changing requirements, tight deadlines, and a high degree of coordination. Helbling Beratung + Bauplanung helps public- and private-sector developers to navigate complex projects, from the initial idea to the final handover. At its offices in Zurich-Altstetten, the company represents construction project owners and advises them on real estate, infrastructure, and transport projects while also specializing in building services engineering planning. Here, recent graduates and seasoned specialists from the fields of architecture, building services engineering, civil engineering, and environmental engineering work closely together in interdisciplinary teams. This creates direct communication channels and allows them to respond quickly to changing client needs.

Being a wholly independent market player remains of the utmost importance as this ensures maximum objectivity, total freedom of action, and a firm focus on client needs – while a strong sense of partnership is at the core of every project. At the same time, key areas such as digitalization, sustainability, BIM, the energy situation, and AI are all firmly incorporated in Helbling's consulting and planning, creating tangible benefits for clients.

HELBLING PLM SOLUTIONS

The partner of choice for digital innovation

PLM Solutions makes digitalization in the innovation process easy to understand and apply, creating digital processes that reduce complexity and speed up innovation.

Many companies struggle with growing product complexity and global development processes. PLM Solutions guides them through the entire product lifecycle, developing processes and solutions that organize data and facilitate effective teamwork. In this way, complex product information becomes a clearly defined digital backbone that creates transparency.

Our specialists design and implement state-of-the-art PLM processes that can be incorporated into company and system architectures. This ensures data continuity from the initial idea to the final product. Many of our projects are carried out based on the 3DEXPERIENCE® platform. We maintain a constant local presence and are always close at hand.



HELBLING EQUITIES

Strengthening technology start-ups



Through Helbling Equities, Helbling helps to boost the ecosystem of technology-oriented start-ups by participating in their equity capital.

Start-ups have been part of Helbling's ecosystem for many years. They are an important client segment that also shares Helbling's entrepreneurial spirit and its drive to bring technological innovations to market. As a development partner, Helbling assists start-ups in all stages of product development – from the initial idea to market launch and scaling.

With Helbling Equities, Helbling acts as a financial investor, focusing first and foremost on the Swiss DeepTech scene, known for its highly specialized technologies. The investments cover a wide spectrum, including medical technology, mechanical engineering, industrial equipment, software, IT, optical systems, microtechnology, mechatronics, robotics, mobility, and home and office devices. These are the areas in which Helbling has extensive experience as a service provider. Because of this, it not only provides start-ups with capital but also offers them technological knowledge and proximity to implementation.

Our locations



You can find the contact details
for each of our locations here:
helbling.ch/contact

