



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

## **Gold-colored acoustic ceiling made of GKD metal mesh**

Feel-good canteen for European satellite agency

**In the light of growing numbers of natural disasters, the monitoring of climate and weather has been gaining in importance for many years. In accordance with this the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), headquartered in Darmstadt, Germany, has also been experiencing rapid growth. The latest new building houses a new canteen for all 600 employees on the site. Its lamella-style suspended ceiling made of gold-colored PC-ALU 6010 aluminum mesh from GKD – Gebr. Kufferath AG creates an effect reminiscent of sunbeams.**

EUMETSAT operates European weather satellites for monitoring the weather as well as for observing the climate and the environment. The data they gather is indispensable to national meteorological services for weather forecasts or natural disaster alerts. EUMETSAT's records of climactic changes are also important for climate services. The rapid growth of the organization founded in 1986 is reflected in a succession of expanded and new buildings at its Darmstadt site, including a new six-story office block. The Pielok Marquardt firm of architects from Offenbach designed the €10 million new building as a counterpart to an already existing structure. High energy efficiency, transparency and a modern design were the design principles upon which the project was based.

On its four office floors the new building offers space for 100 employees who were previously accommodated in office containers, while 60 new colleagues are soon set to join them. In addition to a control center for a new satellite program, the first floor also houses the campus kitchen with an attached



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canteen. With 250 seats, it is designed to serve 410 meals a day. The room is flooded with light and a clever arrangement of furniture divides the space into various acoustically optimized zones. The modern color concept is characterized by lots of white with brown and red accents. However, the room is given a truly unmistakable appearance through its suspended ceiling made up of 400 square meters of gold-colored aluminum mesh. The 120 tilted acoustic elements with a blade-type design have an appearance reminiscent of sunbeams thanks to LED strips at their edges. At the same time they contribute toward pleasant room acoustics. Moreover, the GKD solution impresses in a functional sense: the open mesh structure with different warp and weft wire diameters accommodates ventilation and lighting technology, while supply air outlets on the mesh frames ensure an unobstructed supply of fresh air. As such, the mesh makes an important contribution to creating a feel-good atmosphere in the canteen thanks to its smart interplay of aesthetics and function.



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## **GKD – WORLD WIDE WEAVE**

As a privately owned technical weaver, GKD - Gebr. Kufferath AG is the world market leader in metal, synthetic and spiral mesh solutions. Four independent business divisions bundle their expertise under one roof: Industrial Mesh (woven metal mesh and filter solutions), Process Belts (belts made of mesh and spirals), Architectural meshes (façades, safety and interior design made of metal fabrics) and Mediamesh® (Transparent media façades). With its headquarter in Germany and five other facilities in the US, South Africa, China, India and Chile – as well as its branches in France, Spain, Dubai and worldwide representatives, GKD is close to markets anywhere in the world.

### **For more information:**

GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG  
Metallweberstraße 46  
D-52353 Düren  
Tel.: +49 (0) 2421 / 803-0  
Fax: +49 (0) 2421 / 803-211  
E-Mail: [metalfabrics@gkd.de](mailto:metalfabrics@gkd.de)  
[www.gkd.de](http://www.gkd.de)

### **Please send a reprint to:**

impetus.PR  
Ursula Herrling-Tusch  
Charlottenburger Allee 27-29  
D-52068 Aachen  
Tel.: +49 (0) 241 / 189 25-10  
Fax: +49 (0) 241 / 189 25-29  
E-Mail: [herrling-tusch@impetus-pr.de](mailto:herrling-tusch@impetus-pr.de)