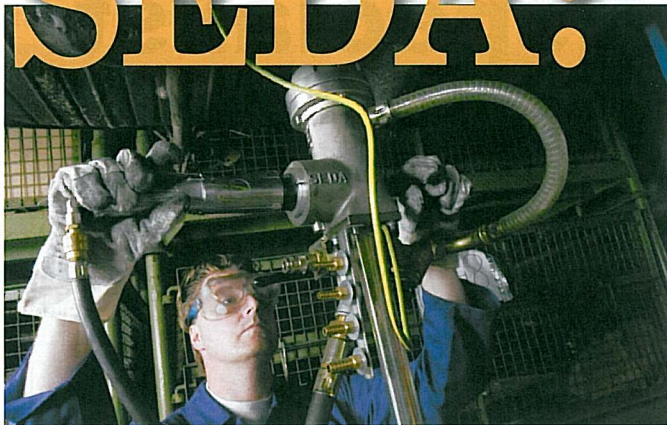


SEDA:



According to SEDA, their stations can drain an entire vehicle of 98% of all liquids in less than 10 minutes.

Safe and speedy ELV fluid drainage

An end-of-life vehicle contains a cocktail of fluids - from petrol to oil, from brake fluid to screen wash. Now entering its fifth decade, Austrian firm SEDA Environmental continues to develop a range of equipment designed for the safe, speedy and cost-effective removal of all fluids from obsolete vehicles.

By Manfred Beck

The town of Kössen in the Tiro mountains of Austria is home to SEDA Environmental - regarded as Europe's leading producer of end-of-life vehicle (ELV) drainage technology.

Joseph Dagn started the business at Kössen some 40 years ago - first as a garage, and subsequently as a radiator repair service for modern and vintage cars. In 1980, he developed the first SEDA plug - of which 200 000 have been sold worldwide - and a complete radiator test system. Four years later, SEDA expanded again with the formation of SEDA America; this business was based initially in New York but has since moved down to St Petersburg in Florida.

In 1991, Mr Dagn developed a SEDA-built sports car - an AC Cobra replica - and developed the world's first coolant recycling machine and complete vehicle drainage system. Over the course of a number of years, the company came to focus on building specialised tools, air-powered drilling machines and drainage

platforms to remove virtually all liquids such as petrol, diesel, waste oil, brake fluid, coolant and screen wash from ELVs - a sector in which the company is a global market leader.

In 2003, the company changed its name to SEDA-Umwelttechnik - or SEDA Environmental Technology - and also set up a daughter company known as SEDA Environmental Benelux which is based in the Netherlands. The company's European distribution network currently extends to 17 countries.

Wide range of tools

SEDA supplies a wide range of machines and tools for the car dismantling industry, including Easy Drain and SEDA Rapid for the draining of fluids. It also offers special tools for: taking out windshields and rear windows; removing side trims without damage; quickly and safely deploying air-bags; and removing catalytic converters. The company operates its own r&d centre where its focus is the continuing

enhancement of machinery and tools for the recycling industry.

SEDA drainage platforms incorporate a series of ingenious air-powered drilling machines and specialist tools which use both air pressure and vacuum. The stations are claimed to remove the maximum amount of fluid in the least time possible: an entire vehicle can be drained of 98% of all liquids in less than 10 minutes, the company maintains. And using its so-called 'double station', as many as 100 ELVs can be drained of all their fluids in a single day.

All SEDA stations are equipped as standard with time-saving, double rubber funnels for the simultaneous draining of gear and engine oil. Also incorporated as standard, self-raising tank drills and swing arms are designed to keep air hoses and drainage lines off the ground.

Automated and faster

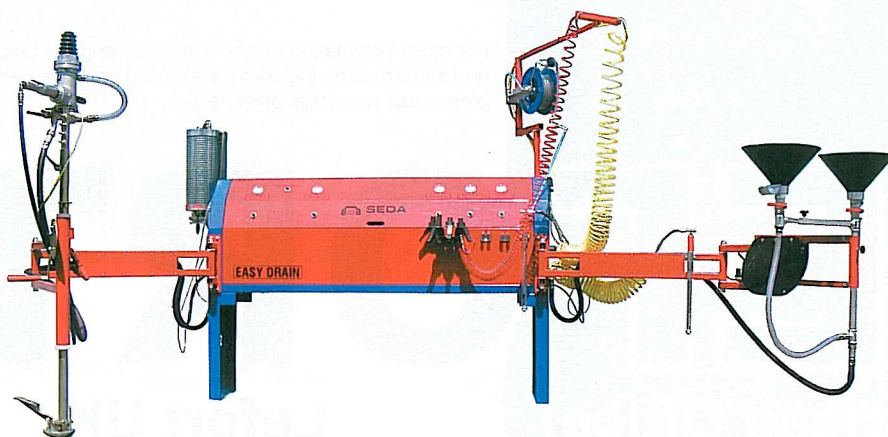
With SEDA's new DrillMatic shock absorber drilling machine, the

process is automated and made even faster. This machine automatically clamps, drills and drains oil from the shock absorber with a single push of a button.

Safety is an important factor in SEDA's product design approach. The tank drill, for instance, has been tested with thermal imaging cameras at the University of Eindhoven in the Netherlands to prove its non-sparking characteristics. These tests represented the first step towards attaining the new European norm on anti-explosion requirements for non-electrical appliances used in a potentially explosive environment, known as ATEX. To date, more than 15 million fuel tanks have been drilled without a single one catching fire.

According to SEDA, its equipment is affordable for all sizes of ELV dismantling yard. □

For more information, please contact: SEDA Umwelttechnik, Kössen, Austria,
Phone: +43 5375 63180,
Fax: +43 5375 63189,
E-mail: info@seda.at
www.seda.at



SEDA's new Easy Drain station is designed for smaller to medium-size car dismantling yards and, when packed, fits neatly on to a large shipping pallet. The end result, says the company, is a drainage station that is inexpensive, relatively cheap to transport and can usually be installed in less than a day by the dismantler himself. The EasyDrain can drain as many as 30 vehicles per day, removing up to 98% of all fluids as well as 20 litres of gas per minute.