

## Winter Event Autostadt

Since the year 2000 AO Lighting realises the most gigantic advent candles of the world



### Challenge

Since the year 2000 the Autostadt in Wolfsburg, Germany celebrates annually a winter event of several weeks on the premises of the VW theme park. For this event the 125 metres high chimneys of the landmarked power plant are illuminated in saturated red, symbolising huge candles. For the façade illumination the client trusts in the experience and know-how of the lighting specialist AO Lighting. Additionally to the façade illumination searchlights are used to set accentuation by light above the premises of the Autostadt.

In the year 2001 the lighting designer Max Wehberg contacted the lighting specialist with the special wish not only to illuminate the four chimneys of the VW plant in red but also, as a special highlight, to install four candle flames illuminated in yellow on the top of the chimneys.

### LOCATION

Wolfsburg, Germany

### DATE

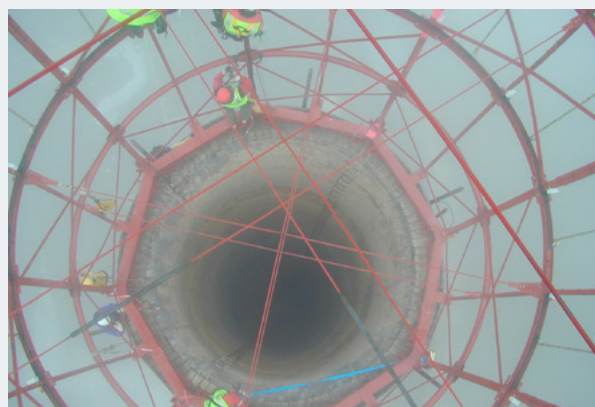
Annual, in December since the year 2000

### PRODUCTS

FALCON BEAM colour 3.000W & 7.000W, FALCON STATIC ARC white 4.000W, SKY FALCON ARC white & colour 1.200W

### LIGHTING DESIGNER

Designer Max Wehberg /  
Technical Manager Christian Kiel



Photos © AO Lighting

### Special requirements

- ▀ Far-reaching floodlights for a homogeneous XXL façade illumination
- ▀ High radiation intensity and colour brilliance
- ▀ Skilled high climbers for installing the candle tops at a height of 125 metres
- ▀ Wireless control of the fixtures
- ▀ High weather resistance
- ▀ Construction and installation of the candle domes
- ▀ Short-term lead time of only four weeks

### Realisation

The project with the candle domes was realised by AO Lighting as general constructor within the short-term lead time of only four weeks. Under the general direction of Marco Niedermeier, Founder of AO Lighting, a team of structural designers and engineers designed the most gigantic candles of the world.

On twelve special transporter the parts of the candles arrived at the VW plant in Wolfsburg where an eighty man team was ready to assemble the candle tops. A lot of special cranes, scaffolds and heavy implements had to be required for mounting the steel candles and the fixing for the special rope light at the steel construction. The four about 15 metres high candle tops had a total

weight of about 30 tons. With the assistance of a special helicopter they were mounted on the four chimney tops. On time for the first advent the first huge advent candle blazed with its candle flame above the rooftops of the VW Autostadt.

Architectural floodlights of the FALCON Range are used annually for the façade illumination of the chimneys. FALCON xenon searchlights set high-lights above the rooftops of the car park.

All searchlights are controlled automatically by a central e:cue lighting control desk. The networking of the fixtures occurs by wireless DMX radio links. This enables a synchronised control of all searchlights with only one single transmitter.

### Result

Since the year 2000 a close collaboration exists in case of the annual advent illumination between the Autostadt and AO Lighting.

Approximately 50.000 visitors come annually to the coveted winter event on the premises of the Autostadt. This permanent institution at Christmas time in Wolfsburg achieves each year a great worldwide media coverage.

LIGHTS TO REMEMBER