

Media Release

Study by Volkswagen relies on ePD technology from Oerlikon Balzers

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 3 March 2016 - In a striking dragon red, Volkswagen presented their study on the Tiguan GTE Active at the Detroit Motor Show in January. The Oerlikon Balzers ePD technology used on the exterior mirror covers, the front-light frame and the radiator grille strips makes a significant contribution to the design of the vehicle.

The study concerns the five-seater VW Tiguan which is conceived as a zero-emission vehicle (a petrol engine starts up only as needed) and is based on the newly developed second generation of the VW Tiguan. The topic of design is of central importance for the Volkswagen brand. An emotional design and a high level of precision are factors which define automobiles with an appealing character. This is expressed in the Tiguan GTE Active as it presents itself with independent design elements in an "authentic off-road look."

The ePD technology from Oerlikon Balzers has a decisive share in this: For one thing, it represents the environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative for plastics metallization, and for another, the attractive colour range opens up many new possibilities for designers which are otherwise offered by only very few technologies. The exterior mirror covers, front-light frame and radiator grille strips were metallized in an ePD hue similar to haematite called "black chrome," which the Oerlikon Balzers ePD specialists defined in cooperation with VW designers.

Sustainable ePD technology

The technology of plastic metallization has attracted the attention of designers and important industrial sectors for many years. High-quality components with glossy, metallic surfaces, such as those used for interior and exterior equipment on automobiles or in the consumer electronics segment, presently represent a strong trend and increase the value of the end product. The ePD technology developed by Oerlikon Balzers is a trail-blazing coating method for all areas in which high-quality metallic surfaces are required on plastic parts. What's more, it is an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional production methods.

ePD allows plastic parts to be given not only a high-gloss or matt metallic appearance, but also attractive metallic colour variations as well as functional aspects, such as configurable light or radio-wave permeability. This allows high-level functional and decorative demands made by industry and consumers to be fulfilled and exceeded in many areas. Oerlikon Balzers achieves this by employing metallic PVD thin-film technology in combination with UV paint technology. Because ePD operates entirely without the use of toxic substances such as chromium derivatives, this type of metallization will comply with the European REACH environmental regulations taking effect at the end of 2017. Additional advantages include very short cycle durations with high output and exceptionally economical production conditions.



Authentic look: The study on the VW Tiguan Active from Volkswagen with ePD-coated exterior mirror covers, front-light frame and radiator grille strips in attractive “black chrome.”

For further information please contact:

Alessandra Doëll
Head of Communications, Oerlikon Balzers
T +423 388 7500
F +423 388 5419
alessandra.doell@oerlikon.com
www.oerlikon.com/balzers

About Oerlikon Balzers

Oerlikon Balzers is one of the world's leading suppliers of surface technologies that significantly improve the performance and durability of precision components as well as tools for the metal and plastics processing industries. Extremely thin and exceptionally hard coatings, marketed under the BALINIT and BALIQ brand names, reduce friction and wear. The BALITHERM brand opens up a broad range of heat treatment services, whereas BALTONE comprises coatings that are available in a full range of elegant colours, perfectly suited for decorative applications. Under the technology brand ePD, the company develops integrated services and solutions for the metallization of plastic parts with chrome effects. Worldwide, more than 1'100 coating systems are in operation at Oerlikon Balzers facilities and its customers. Equipment engineering and assembly of Balzers' machines are headquartered in Liechtenstein. Oerlikon Balzers operates a dynamically growing network of currently 108 coating centres in 35 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia. Oerlikon Balzers is – together with Oerlikon Metco - part of the Surface Solutions Segment of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).

About the Surface Solutions Segment

The Surface Solutions Segment of the Oerlikon Group includes the two brands Oerlikon Balzers and Oerlikon Metco. Oerlikon Balzers is one of the world's leading suppliers of surface technologies that significantly improve the performance and durability of precision components as well as tools for the metal and plastics processing industries. Extremely thin and exceptionally hard coatings, marketed under the BALINIT and BALIQ brand names, reduce friction and wear. The BALITHERM brand opens up a broad range of heat treatment services, whereas BALTONE comprises coatings that are available in a full range of elegant colours, perfectly suited for decorative applications. Under the technology brand ePD, the company develops integrated services and solutions for the metallization of plastic parts with chrome effects. Worldwide, more than 1'100 coating systems are in operation at Oerlikon Balzers facilities and its customers. Equipment engineering and assembly of Balzers' machines are headquartered in Liechtenstein. Oerlikon Metco enhances surfaces with coating solutions and equipment. Customers benefit from a uniquely broad range of surface technologies, coating solutions, equipment, materials, services, and specialized machining services and components. The innovative solutions improve performance and increase efficiency and reliability. Oerlikon Metco serves industries such as power generation, aviation, automotive, and other specialized markets. The Surface Solutions Segment operates a dynamically growing network of currently more than 145 facilities with over 140 coating centres in 36 countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia, employing more than 6 000 people. The Surface Solutions Segment is part of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).