

**Media Release****Oerlikon Surface Solutions strengthens footprint in South Korea**

**Balzers, Liechtenstein, 1 April 2016 – The Surface Solutions Segment of the Oerlikon Group strengthens its footprint in South Korea. By taking over the Metco Business from its long-time distribution partner, Oerlikon Metco will, in future, cover the Korean market directly. Oerlikon Balzers has, moreover, opened up an additional Customer Centre in the country.**

The new location in Gwangju is Oerlikon Balzers' 5<sup>th</sup> Customer Centre in South Korea, and its 108<sup>th</sup> worldwide. "Korea is a genuine Oerlikon Balzers success story. This new centre will enable us to provide an even better, short-term delivery service for our customers in the forming tool / home appliance industry and for our automotive industry customers in the prosperous Gwangju area," says Marc Desrayaud, Head of Business Unit Tooling Solutions at Oerlikon Surface Solutions.

Effective 1st April, Oerlikon Metco furthermore, takes over all Metco assets from IWS, its long-time local distribution partner, and officially opens the new Oerlikon Metco Korea branch office in Seoul. "Our two companies have enjoyed a highly successful partnership since 1985 when IWS became Oerlikon Metco's representative in South Korea. Oerlikon Metco has, in the meantime, become, the leading thermal spray brand in South Korea. The new Oerlikon Metco Korea office is the next step in this process, and will provide even better and more direct service for our regional customers", stressed Markus Heusser, Head of Business Unit Materials & Technology at Oerlikon Surface Solutions.

"With our own Oerlikon Metco sales office and sales force, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Oerlikon Balzers customer centre in South Korea, the Surface Solutions Segment emphasizes its presence in this important market. These developments will further improve our customer relationships and growth in the various South Korean industries," says Roland Herb, CEO Surface Solutions Segment of the Oerlikon Group.



The new Oerlikon Balzers customer centre in Gwangju, South Korea.



The Oerlikon Balzer's customer centre team in Gwangju, South Korea.



The new Oerlikon Metco sales office in Seoul, South Korea.

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**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. As innovation leader, Oerlikon Metco is forging new paths with materials for additive manufacturing (AM). 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 37 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).

**About Oerlikon**

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is a leading global technology Group, with a clear strategy of becoming a global powerhouse in surface solutions, advanced materials and materials processing. The Group is committed to investing in value-bringing technologies that provide customers with lighter, more durable materials that are able to increase performance, improve efficiency and reduce the use of scarce resources. A Swiss company with over 100 years of tradition, Oerlikon has a global footprint of over 13 500 employees at more than 170 locations in 37 countries and sales of CHF 2.7 billion in 2015. The company invested CHF 103 million in R&D in 2015 and has over 1 350 specialists developing innovative and customer-oriented products and services.