

Press release

Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences: Balzers technology for teaching students

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 10 February 2017 – The Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences in Krefeld, Germany, is making use of Oerlikon Balzers expertise to train the new generation of surface engineering experts. End of 2016 a METAPLAS.DOMINO MINI coating system was delivered to the university's surface engineering laboratory.

The surface engineering laboratory at the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences was opened in 2011. The Surface Technology Applied Research (STAR) skills centre, which focuses on training graduate and undergraduate students for the industry, is also based in this laboratory. The previous equipment – a second-hand system from an industrial plant – no longer met the demands of modern industry. “As the METAPLAS.DOMINO MINI combines source technologies such as arc evaporation, sputtering and high-ionization processes, it is the ideal solution for the demands of our practically-oriented teaching programs”, explains Professor Markus Lake, director of the laboratory.

This move makes Oerlikon Balzers the exclusive industry partner for the laboratory. After installation and commissioning, laboratory staff and students will be trained in how to use the METAPLAS.DOMINO MINI. “The aim is to use this collaboration in future for working on new technologies and developments”, explains Marc Desrayaud, Head of Oerlikon Balzers Industrial Solutions.

In addition to the new system, an automated ultrasonic cleaning system has also been ordered, to be delivered shortly. “By also integrating the possibilities of pre and post-treatment we can give our students a broad training in how the whole of the coating process chain works”, said a delighted Professor Lake. Official commissioning is scheduled to take place at a ceremony in early summer.



The METAPLAS.DOMINO MINI coating system offers an almost limitless range of coatings

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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 processed in Liechtenstein and in Bergisch Gladbach (Germany). Oerlikon Balzers operates a dynamically growing network of more than 100 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 processed in Liechtenstein and in Bergisch Gladbach (Germany). **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).