Media Release

ePD takes another step forward: Nanogate SE to cooperate with Oerlikon Balzers

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 28 February 2018 – Following last year's commissioning of the first Oerlikon Balzers INUBIA I6 coating system at Nanogate SE, the two companies have agreed to work together with the aim of further establishing Oerlikon Balzers' ePD technology and developing new applications. As the first global customer, Nanogate SE will now metallize plastic parts for the industrial sector using the environmentally friendly and extremely innovative ePD coating for the N-Metals Design technology platform.

High-quality components with glossy, metallic surfaces, such as those used in interior and exterior vehicle applications or in the consumer electronics segment, are currently in high demand and increase both the functionality and value of the end product. The ePD technology (ePD: embedded PVD for Design Parts, PVD: Physical Vapor Deposition) 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 galvanic processes involving chromium(VI).

After the strategic investment of purchasing the Oerlikon Balzers INUBIA coating system, Nanogate SE now operates a customer facility at its production site in Neunkirchen, Germany, and is preparing for series production.

In contrast to conventional manufacturing processes, ePD technology does more than just give plastic parts a metallic high gloss and matt look with an attractive range of colours – it also improves their functional properties such as light and radio transparency. As a result, the highest functional and design demands of industry and consumers are exceeded in many areas. The ePD coating process involves a combination of metallic PVD thin-film coating and UV lacquer technology, and the highly automated INUBIA I allow ePD coating to be carried out on an industrial scale, enabling extremely short production cycle times and creating very economical production conditions.

The aim of the cooperation between Oerlikon Balzers and Nanogate SE is to open up new application areas for both companies, and to develop and industrialize further innovative coating solutions using the INUBIA I6 coating machine in Neunkirchen. By combining the expertise of both companies, customer products can be implemented jointly and preparations for further series production can be made.

More information on the ePD technology from Oerlikon Balzers can be found at www.oerlikon.com/balzers/epd.

Oerlikon Balzers and Nanogate will join forces to develop and industrialize innovative coating systems using the INUBIA I6 machine

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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 and tools used in the metal and plastics processing industries. These coatings, developed under the brand names BALINIT and BALIQ, are extremely thin, exceptionally hard and significantly reduce friction and wear. BALITHERM offers a broad spectrum of heat treatments while BALTONE comprises coatings which are beautifully suited for decorative applications due to their elegant colours. Under the technology brand BALIFOR, the company develops customized solutions for the automotive market, while ePD represents solutions for the metallization of plastic parts yielding a chrome look.
Worldwide, there are more than 1,100 coating systems in use by Oerlikon Balzers and their customers. The development and assembly operations for Balzers systems are based in Liechtenstein and in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany. Oerlikon Balzers has a dynamically evolving network currently consisting of over 100 coating centres in 35 countries in Europe, North and South America and Asia. Together with Oerlikon Metco, Oerlikon Balzers is part of the Surface Solutions Segment of the Swiss Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).

About Nanogate SE
Nanogate (ISIN DE000A0JKHC9) is a leading global specialist for design-oriented high-tech surfaces and components of very high optical quality. The Group employs around 1,200 people. Nanogate develops and produces design-oriented surfaces and components and enhances them with additional properties (e.g. nonstick, scratchproof, anticorrosive).

The Group has first-class references (e.g. Airbus, Audi, August Brötje, BMW, BSH Hausgeräte, Daimler, FILA, Ford, Fresenius, GM, Jaguar, Junghans, Porsche and Volkswagen). Several hundred mass production projects for customers have already been implemented successfully. The Nanogate Group is represented on both sides of the Atlantic with its own production facilities.

True to its slogan “A world of new surfaces”, Nanogate is a long-standing innovation partner who opens up the diverse possibilities offered by new materials to companies in a wide range of industries. It aims to improve customers’ products and processes and to provide environmental benefits by using multifunctional surfaces, such as those made of plastic or metal, and innovative plastic components. The Group concentrates on attractive sectors such as automotive/transport, mechanical/plant engineering, buildings/interiors and sport/leisure. As a systems provider, Nanogate offers the entire value chain materials development for surface systems, series coating of various different substrates as well as the production and enhancement of complete plastic components. The main value drivers are the opening up of international markets, the development of new applications for the strategic growth areas Advanced Polymers (innovative plastics) and Advanced Metals (innovative metal enhancements) as well as external growth.