

Media Release**Oerlikon Balzers expands automotive surface treatment portfolio with acquisition in Germany**

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 8 October 2018 – **Oerlikon, a leading provider of surface solutions, has signed and closed a targeted acquisition in Germany to expand its plasma nitriding service offering for customers and to strengthen its position in the automotive market. Härterei Dipl.- Ing. Peter Eicker KG (Eicker), a specialised heat treatment supplier for the automotive industry, will now operate under the Oerlikon Balzers brand.**

Eicker is well established in the German automotive market applying its state-of-the-art heat treatment technology to components such as double clutch systems and synchroniser rings for automotive customers. The acquisition enlarges Oerlikon Balzers' footprint, particularly in the west of Germany and enables a closer proximity to its customers. It also provides Oerlikon Balzers the potential to expand its capacity to meet increasing demands for surface treatment services in this region. Furthermore, the acquisition deepens Oerlikon Balzers' know-how in plasma nitriding, facilitating greater expertise, both in terms of technology and processes, for customers.

The plasma nitriding technologies from Eicker complement our current portfolio and will enable us to provide our customers a broader and more complete offering of plasma nitriding and heat treatment services," said Jochen Weyandt, Head of Oerlikon Business Unit Automotive Solutions. "This acquisition will serve to further strengthen our relationships with key customers."

Plasma nitriding is a thermochemical heat treatment process used for increasing the reliability and wear resistance of mechanically stressed metal parts. The process improves the fatigue strength and corrosion resistance of materials by increasing the surface hardness.



Proud team of Oerlikon Balzers Business Unit Automotive: Fabian Hoffmann (Global Head of Automotive Nitriding), Avrath Chadha (Head of ThinFilm Automotive), Gunnar Praetorius (Head of Controlling), Michael Laakmann (Project Manager), Klaus Schwebel (Global HR), Marco Freidl (Senior Project Manager M&A), Corinna Heinz (Marketing Communications Manager)



Oerlikon Balzers acquired Peter Eicker KG in Germany.

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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 BALIFOR, the company develops the technologies for tailor-made solutions for the automotive market, and ePD delivers solutions for the metallisation 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' systems 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 and Oerlikon AM - part of the Surface Solutions Segment of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).