

**Media Release****Oerlikon Balzers France celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its motorsports customer centre in Limoges**

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 29 October 2019 – **On 1 and 2 October Oerlikon Balzers, a leading provider of surface solutions, invited special guests and customers to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its customer centre in Limoges, France. Limoges is best known as Oerlikon Balzers' competence centre for the motorsports industry, offering coating solutions for precision components used in high-performance engines.**

Marc Hervé, Motorsports Segment Manager, gave a presentation in which he outlined the history of the Limoges site from the beginning and its development over the years, introduced the company's latest coating technologies and solutions for precision components used in the motorsport industry, and looked ahead to future innovations. The evening event gave the invited special guests and customers the opportunity to meet and talk to experts from Oerlikon Balzers to discuss the latest developments, before the anniversary celebrations concluded with a tour of the impressive production facilities the next day.

Oerlikon Balzers' success in the motorsports industry over more than 25 years is primarily based on the high-performance diamond-like carbon (DLC) coating BALINIT CAVIDUR, which has become the global industry standard for valve train parts as it reduces friction, increases wear resistance and extends the service life of components. DLC coatings are now widely used in racing series such as Formula 1, the World Rally Championship, the US National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) and the German Touring Car Championship (DTM), but it's not just cars that benefit: motorbike and motocross components have also been optimised using this coating for more than 20 years.

"Our expertise, innovative technologies and close relationship with our customers have played a big part in making Limoges a hub for coatings used in motorsports. We have shown that Oerlikon Balzers deserves its position as a market leader in the world of motorsport coatings, and celebrating this anniversary together will strengthen our relationship and help us tackle the challenges of the future in this sector", said Gilles Widawski, Head of Oerlikon Balzers France, who was quick to thank his team: "Providing outstanding customer service and setting the standard for 30 years in this unique industry is no mean feat. It demonstrates even more clearly that the team have performed extremely well and used their in-depth expertise and passion to build up such a productive relationship with their customers – so it's no wonder they have had so much success and received so many awards over the years."

Marc Hervé said: “High-performance coatings for motorsports, consistent customer service excellence and a strong team spirit among our employees have paid off over the years and helped Oerlikon Balzers forge an enviable reputation as a market leader for coatings, especially for motorsports.”



Special guests and customers came to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oerlikon Balzers motorsports customer centre in Limoges.



Gilles Widawski, Head of Oerlikon Balzers France, thanked customers for their trust and productive cooperation with the Oerlikon Balzers team over the years – a shared passion which has been recognised with numerous awards.



Marc Hervé, Motorsports Segment Manager, gave a presentation in which he outlined the history of motorsports at Oerlikon Balzers, introduced the latest coating technologies and solutions for precision components in the industry, and looked ahead to future innovations.

**For further information please contact:**

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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. BALIMED ThinFilm coatings, with wear-resistant, biocompatible, antimicrobial and chemically inert properties, have been developed especially for medical applications. Under the BALIFOR technology brand the company has introduced technologies which provide tailor-made solutions for the automotive market, while ePD allows the metallisation of plastic parts with a chrome look.

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, in Langenthal (Switzerland) 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).