

Press Release**Oerlikon Balzers delivers 100th INNOVA system****Growth thrust with a technically superior allround talent**

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 30 September 2014 – Launched eight years ago, the Oerlikon Balzers INNOVA coating system has turned out to be a bestseller. The 100th INNOVA system was shipped just recently. “The INNOVA represents a breakthrough in technology with respect to application flexibility and a high level of reliability,” says Helmut Rudigier, Head of Research and Development at Oerlikon Balzers. The INNOVA coating system was and still is a key success factor for Oerlikon Balzers' growth.

On the bottom line, Oerlikon Balzers is a service provider: Customers bring drill bits, milling cutters, and forming tools as well as automotive, aircraft, and compression components, surgical instruments and much more to one of the company's 94 coating centres around the world. At these centres, Oerlikon Balzers applies ultra-thin nitride, oxide, and different carbon-modified coatings for protection against wear and friction. More than 90% of its revenues originate from this service business, and the trend is still pointing up.

This service is conceivable only with efficient and reliable resources – and this is where, eight years ago, Oerlikon Balzers defined a new benchmark with the INNOVA. Since coating systems entail six-figure investments, they must be deployable as flexibly as possible. “Depending on the components or tools involved, our customers have highly diversified expectations, so the coatings have to be optimised to the respective application,” Rudigier adds. At the same time, the systems have to be extremely reliable. Otherwise, the service could not be cost-effectively provided with the necessary quality. In the production environment, more than 15 different coating systems can be applied to tools, components, and parts made of many different substrate materials without compromising availability.

Since it was originally conceived, the INNOVA has been continually refined to accommodate new technical developments and anticipate customer requirements. In 2006, for instance, Oerlikon Balzers developed the patented P3e coating process which makes it possible to produce hard aluminium oxide coatings with a special corundum structure at relatively low temperatures. Previously, this was not possible, but now, it offers many exciting application advantages. The latest generation of arc evaporation sources is available for the INNOVA as well, further proof of the coating system's versatility.

No wonder that, given its many assets, INNOVA has not only been delivered to Oerlikon Balzers' own coating centres. Many of the 100 systems shipped so far were ordered by highly respected tool manufacturers – “a welcome verification of the fact that Balzers defines the standards in state-of-the-art coating technology,” Rudigier notes. “And a fitting occasion to celebrate with the entire development team!”

For further information, please contact:

Alessandra Doëll
Head of Communications Oerlikon Balzers
T +423 388 7500
F +423 388 5419
alessandra.doell@oerlikon.com

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. Under the technology brand ePD, the company develops integrated services and solutions for the metallization of plastic parts with chrome effects. Oerlikon Balzers operates a dynamically growing network of currently 94 coating centers in 34 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 Oerlikon

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is a leading high-tech industrial group specializing in machine and plant engineering. The Company is a provider of innovative industrial solutions and cutting-edge technologies for manmade fibers manufacturing, drive systems, vacuum, surface solutions and advanced nanotechnology. A Swiss company with a tradition going back over 100 years, Oerlikon is a global player with around 15 500 employees at over 170 locations in 35 countries and pro-forma sales of CHF 3.6 billion in 2013. The Company invested in 2013 CHF 146 million in R&D (pro-forma 2013), with over 1 200 specialists working on future products and services. In most areas, the operative businesses rank either first or second in their respective global markets.



INNOVA coating system development team

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INNOVA coating system

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