

Media Release

Oerlikon leads the way to a green economy

The latest technologies in the field of mobility are also good for the environment

Balzers, November 13, 2014 – Saving a million liters of jet fuel an hour, reducing annual motor fuel use by seven billion liters, and lowering CO₂ emissions from trucks by 65,000 metric tons every year. It is all being made a reality, and Dr. Roland Herb, CEO of the Oerlikon Surface Solutions Segment, explained just how in his November 13th keynote speech at the Second Swiss Green Economy Symposium in Winterthur, Switzerland. During his speech, which kicked off the event, Herb pointed out how continuous investment in research and development is not only benefitting Oerlikon's customers, but also our planet.

"While it's true that mobility is one of our society's megatrends, as well as the foundation behind our prosperity, it's also true that it's one of the main drivers behind the damage being done to the environment. That's exactly where Oerlikon's surface solutions come in," Herb explained in front of leading international entrepreneurs, politicians, and NGO representatives who had gathered in Winterthur in order to discuss the latest technologies and approaches.

The reasoning behind his statement was obvious, with the aircraft and auto industries being confronted by similar challenges that can be summarized as follows: How can efficiency and environmental friendliness be improved further in the future? As many already know, the answer lies not only in the development of cutting-edge technologies and methods, but also in how the issues of friction, wear, and precision are handled. After all, less friction results in greater performance and reduced emissions; less wear means that components can be subjected to greater loads while benefitting from longer service lives, higher reliability, and improved safety; and the ability to meet extremely strict tolerance requirements is a guaranteed way to deliver greater efficiency.

Oerlikon's contribution to the green economy is based on research and development investments totaling about 140 million Swiss Francs a year, most of them focused on the new surface solutions offered by Oerlikon Balzers and Oerlikon Metco, which together make up Oerlikon's Surface Solutions Segment. This segment is continuously developing and improving its technologies and methods in order to offer environmentally-friendly surface finishing alternatives to conventional materials and to technologies with a significant impact on the environment, such as hard chrome plating. A perfect example is Oerlikon Balzers' ePD technology, which not only sets new standards in terms of sustainability, but also offers users a series of additional options that other methods and technologies are unable to match.

Meanwhile, Oerlikon Metco solutions are used to coat essential aircraft components such as turbine blades, empennage systems, and landing gear in order to make them more durable and corrosion-resistant, reducing their susceptibility to wear as a result. "When the jet engines in a plane or the engines in cars burn fuel more efficiently thanks to our coatings, there are several clear advantages: Our customers get systems that are more cost-effective to operate and need to be replaced less frequently, the environment benefits thanks to the fact that emissions are cut by hundreds of thousands of metric tons, and our customers' customers – airplane passengers and car drivers – can enjoy improved levels of safety as a result of the greater quality and efficiency of individual components," Herb points out. "To put it simply: Oerlikon Balzers and Oerlikon Metco are making a decisive contribution to sustainability – and everyone is benefitting."

For further information please contact:

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



Dr. Roland Herb, CEO Oerlikon Surface Solutions Segment

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https://www.dropbox.com/s/o8q3otte4kkyrr7/Dr.%20Roland%20Herb_highres_retouchiert%202.10.2014.JPG?dl=0

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 Metco

Oerlikon Metco enhances surfaces that bring benefits to customers through a uniquely broad range of surface technologies, equipment, materials, services, specialized machining services and components. The surface technologies such as Thermal Spray, Thin Film, Plasma Heat Treatment and Laser Cladding improve the performance and increase efficiency and reliability. Oerlikon Metco serves industries such as aviation, power generation, automotive, oil & gas, industrial and other specialized markets and operates a dynamically growing network of more than 50 sites in EMEA, Americas and Asia Pacific. Oerlikon Metco, together with Oerlikon Balzers, belongs to the Surface Solutions Segment of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).

About the Surface Solutions Segment

The Oerlikon Surface Solutions Segment 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 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 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. 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 130 facilities with over 110 coating centers in 35 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia, employing around 6 000 people. The Surface Solutions Segment is part of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).