

## Oerlikon Balzers enters aerospace market

Pfäffikon SZ / Balzers, Liechtenstein, July 3, 2013 – Oerlikon Balzers, the global market and technology leader in high-end hard coatings, has opened a new aerospace competence center near Paris. With this new facility, Oerlikon Balzers will augment aerospace customers' efforts to increase reliability and efficiency of crucial aircraft parts. "The opening of our aerospace competence center is another important step forward in our component business strategy to enlarge the spectrum of markets and applications for PVD coatings", says Dr. Hans Brändle, CEO of Oerlikon's Coating Segment.

High-end hard coatings with near diamond-like strength already play a crucial role in applications such as car engines, cutting and forming tools, surgical instruments and watches. Modern diesel injection pumps, for example, could not function without coatings from Oerlikon Balzers. These coatings allow Oerlikon Balzers' customers to increase the productivity of industrial processes, substitute toxic treatments such as chrome plating and design new, higher efficiency products.

Having brought coatings into the mainstream for both the metalworking and automotive industries, Oerlikon Balzers is expanding into Aerospace. "More and more aircraft industry applications are opening up to modern PVD coatings – turbine blades, stabilizer assemblies and landing gear to name just a few. For us, this is an important medium- and long-term growth market with a global market potential for thin film coating solution of several tenths of millions," Oerlikon Balzers CEO Hans Brändle observed. "The main growth driver for advanced coating technologies is the need for light-weight flight critical components to meet the demands of safety, reliability and long service life. Needless to say, our first aerospace competence centre in France is Nadcap-certified and thus meets all of the aircraft industry's rigorous quality requirements."

Prominent aerospace industry representatives expressed their enthusiasm for the new plant and affirmed their conviction that Oerlikon Balzers is fit for the future. Francis Monerie-Moulin, Thermal Spray Expert at Messier-Bugatti-Dowty, outlined his vision for the great potential of PVD coating applications in landing gear, brake systems, engines, and other aircraft components: "Innovative PVD coatings will significantly boost the reliability of safety-critical aircraft parts and the energy efficiency of engines," he stated.

#### For further information please contact:

Burkhard Böndel  
OC Oerlikon Management AG  
Head of Group Communications & IR  
T +41 58 360 96 02  
F +41 58 360 98 02  
pr@oerlikon.com

Alessandra Doëll  
Oerlikon Balzers AG  
Head of Communications Oerlikon Balzers  
T +423 388 7636  
F +423 388 5478  
alessandra.doell@oerlikon.com



### About Oerlikon

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is one of the world's leading high-tech industrial groups specializing in machine and plant engineering. The Company is a provider of innovative industrial solutions and cutting-edge technologies for textile machines, drives, vacuum and solar energy systems, thin-film coating and advanced nanotechnology. A Swiss company with a tradition going back more than 100 years, Oerlikon is a global player with around 12,700 employees at more than 160 locations in 34 countries and sales of CHF 2.9 billion in 2012. In 2012, the company invested CHF 106 million in R&D, with over 1,000 specialists working on future products and services. In most areas, the company ranks either first or second in the respective global markets.

### 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. These coatings, marketed under the BALINIT® brand name, are extremely thin and exceptionally hard. They significantly reduce friction and wear. Oerlikon Balzers also develops processes, manufactures and sells systems and production facilities, and offers contract coating services through a dynamically growing network of currently 91 coating centers in Europe, the Americas and Asia. Moreover, under the technology brand ePD™, the company develops integrated services and solutions for the metallization of plastic parts with chrome effects. Oerlikon Balzers is a Business Unit of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).