

Media release

Service life 30 times longer thanks to the new coating generation BAL.IQ

Oerlikon Balzers continues its innovation lead with the new coating generation BAL.IQ

Balzers, Liechtenstein / Hannover, Germany – September 16, 2013 – Oerlikon Balzers will introduce a new generation of wear-protective coatings called BAL.IQ at the EMO, the world's leading metalworking trade fair to be held in Hannover. BAL.IQ significantly outperforms current coatings in many ways and can be modified to create tailored, user-specific applications. "BAL.IQ enables our customers to significantly boost productivity, process reliability and lower costs," says Dr. Hans Brändle, the CEO of Oerlikon Balzers. "With this pioneering product, we have secured our position as an innovation leader for years to come."

Coatings are already a driving force behind the productivity gains being achieved by the metalworking industry. Due to high productivity requirements, a broad variety of applications would not be possible without coatings. Compared with untreated tools, coated instruments last up to much longer and facilitate considerably higher cutting speeds. Oerlikon Balzers laid the industrial groundwork for these strides 35 years ago when it introduced the BALINIT coating generation. Just like such market pacesetters as the VW Golf and the Apple iPhone, BALINIT is setting standards in coating technology. "BALINIT has written a significant chapter in the success story our company has enjoyed in recent decades," says Oerlikon Balzers CEO Brändle. "With BAL.IQ, we are setting another industry standard that complements BALINIT in applications that have not been explored before."

With the market introduction of the BAL.IQ coating family, Oerlikon Balzers is once again entering a new dimension of productivity and reliability in metalworking. Until now, it has been impossible to coat tools used in microdrilling. But extensive testing conducted in cooperation with customers has demonstrated that BAL.IQ is capable of doing this job, extending the life time of these special and expensive micro drills by 30 times and more. In other areas of application like gear processing, previously unusable coating materials can now be applied, an improvement that can boost tools' life time by nearly 300 %.

The secret of these many improvements is the unusually smooth surfaces as well as the extreme hardness, thickness, wear resistance and adhesive strength exhibited by BAL.IQ coatings. The foundation of this combination of qualities is the S3p process technology (S3p stands for Scalable Pulsed Power Plasma) that Oerlikon Balzers introduced to professional audiences two years ago. In one single process, S3p integrates the previously non-combinable qualities of the two coating technologies sputtering und arc evaporation. "With BAL.IQ, we are launching the global marketing campaign for our S3p technology and are generating further momentum for our growth strategy," Brändle says.

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 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, coating, and advanced nanotechnology. A Swiss company with a tradition going back over 100 years, Oerlikon is a global player with around 13 000 employees at around 160 locations in 34 countries and sales of CHF 2.9 billion in 2012. The Company invested in 2012 CHF 106 million in R&D, with over 1 000 specialists working on future products and services. In most areas, the operative businesses rank either first or second in their 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 92 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).