

Press Release**AC-Automation Acquisition****Oerlikon integrates automation solutions for large-scale plants in technology portfolio**

Remscheid, Germany / Pfäffikon, Schwyz, Switzerland – April 13, 2018 – Oerlikon announced today that it has acquired Germany-based AC-Automation GmbH & Co. KG, an engineering company specializing in large-scale plant automation solutions for the textile and packaging industries. The two companies have been partnering since the early 1980s. The integration of AC-Automation in Oerlikon expands the market-leading technology portfolio of its Manmade Fibers Segment. It also marks a milestone in Oerlikon's ongoing quest to offer innovative, fully automated and digitally networked Industry 4.0 solutions in the manmade fiber industry.

The 60 employees at AC-Automation's Bernkastel-Kues and Augsburg locations will become part of Oerlikon's Manmade Fibers Segment, which includes the leading brands Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag. The move will expand the Segment's business model, adding another key core component to its current offering of production plants and technology solutions from melt to yarn, fibers, and nonwovens. Ultimately, Oerlikon will be able to offer customers a total solution from a single source, including automation logistics for packaging, high-bay storage, and other areas, which complement its current market-leading spinning and process technologies for the textile industry.

"We see our expanded overall offering as an Industry 4.0 solution, reflecting the future of an even more efficient, digitized and profitable chemical fiber industry, especially for large-scale plants with daily production capacity of several hundred tons of polyester, nylon, polypropylene, or other manmade fibers," explains Georg Stausberg, CEO of the Manmade Fibers Segment. Manmade fiber producers from China — the world's most important market, generating more than 70 % of worldwide manmade fiber production — as well as companies from other fast-growing markets such as India, Turkey and the USA are also relying on automated and networked Industry 4.0 total solutions.

"The acquisition and integration of AC-Automation's automation solutions will provide new opportunities for our manmade fiber business. It enables the Segment to increasingly position itself as an Industry 4.0 solution provider in combination with our own digitization solutions," says Oerlikon Group CEO Dr. Roland Fischer. "As a leading provider of advanced materials, surface solutions and materials processing including the engineering and production of polymer plants, this acquisition marks another milestone in Oerlikon's strategy to strengthen its businesses and thus sustain profitable growth."

"After such a long partnership, we are excited to be able to benefit even more in the future as part of a global player in the textile industry. Our market access will further improve with the help of the Oerlikon Group's sales and service network. For my employees, I am very pleased to be able to bring them into an international Group, in which there would be new opportunities and perspectives for them personally," said Rolf Gänz, AC-Automation's Managing Director.

Caption: Georg Stausberg, CEO of Oerlikon Manmade Fibers Segment, Rolf Gänz, Managing Director of AC-Automation, and Ralf Schilken, CFO of Oerlikon Manmade Fibers Segment (from left, first row).

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About Oerlikon

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) engineers materials, equipment and surfaces and provides expert services to enable customers to have high-performance products, and systems with extended lifespans. Drawing on its key technological competencies and strong financial foundation, the Group is sustaining mid-term growth by executing three strategic drivers: addressing attractive growth markets, securing structural growth, and expanding through targeted mergers and acquisitions (M&A). A leading global technology and engineering Group, Oerlikon operates its business in three Segments – Surface Solutions, Manmade Fibers, and Drive Systems – and has a global footprint of approximately 15,000 employees at 186 locations in 37 countries. In 2017, Oerlikon generated CHF 2.8 billion in sales and invested CHF 107 million in research and development (R&D).

About Oerlikon Manmade Fibers Segment

With its Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag brands, Oerlikon Manmade Fibers Segment is the world market leader for manmade fiber filament spinning systems, texturing machines, BCF systems, staple fiber systems, solutions for the production of nonwovens and – as a service provider – offers engineering solutions for the entire textile value added chain.

As a future oriented company, the research and development at this division of the Oerlikon Group is driven by energy-efficiency and sustainable technologies (e-save). With the continuous polycondensation and extrusion line systems and their key components, the company caters to the entire process with automated and digitally networked Industry 4.0 solutions – from the monomer all the way through to the textured yarn.

The primary markets for the product portfolio of Oerlikon Barmag are in Asia, especially in China, India and Turkey, and – for the ones of Oerlikon Neumag – in the USA, Asia, Turkey and Europe. Worldwide the segment – with just under 3,000 employees – has a presence in 120 countries of production, sales and distribution and service organizations. At the R&D centers in Remscheid, Neumünster (Germany) and Suzhou (China), highly-qualified engineers, technologists and technicians develop innovative and technologically-leading products for tomorrow's world.

About AC-Automation

The AC-Automation company is located in Bernkastel-Kues, close to Trier one of the oldest cities in Germany with a branch in Augsburg. With more than 30 years of combined experience in the field of man-made fiber production-automation AC-Automation is prepared to fulfill all customer demands. Starting with the filament production-automation department in the early 80s the focus always was to deliver maximum benefit, functionality and smart innovations to customer.

By offering highly sophisticated and proven robotized handling, packing, transportation and warehouse systems for the chemical fiber industry, in combination with a state-of-the-art OPC-UA communication platform with integrated MFC/MES systems, AC-Automation has guaranteed – since a very early stage – “turn-key” supply to customers, who ask for perfectly integrated production and logistic solutions. Meanwhile more than 70 installations have been supplied to customers all over the world, always providing highest German engineering quality combined with long term reliability.

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