

Strategic Portfolio Streamlining in Oerlikon Coating Segment

Oerlikon Balzers optimizes its product portfolio

Balzers, 3 October 2011 – In the move to further focus on core competencies, Oerlikon Balzers has sold its French vacuum heat treatment division to Bodycote, a specialist in the business. 26 Oerlikon Balzers employees have transferred to Bodycote as a result.

Oerlikon Balzers is the leading PVD coating supplier for tools and precision components. Nitriding, a special heat treatment process for the hardening of metal surfaces, remains within Oerlikon Balzer's product portfolio and is therefore not part of the transaction. „With this step we concentrate on Advanced Surface Solutions. As vacuum heat treatment is not part of this strategy, parting with this small but sound division is a logical move. It was important for us to have found a strategic investor in Bodycote who will determinedly push forward the further development of the business“, said Oerlikon Coating CEO Dr. Hans Brändle. This move is a further expression of the overall Oerlikon Group strategy, which is to focus on profitable growth in areas of core competence.

The transfer of Oerlikon Balzer's vacuum heat treatment unit to Bodycote was closed on 30 September 2011. Both parties have agreed not to disclose the sales price.

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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 textile manufacturing, drive, vacuum, thin film, coating, and advanced nanotechnology. A Swiss company with a tradition going back over 100 years, Oerlikon is a global player with more than 17 000 employees at over 150 locations in 38 countries and sales of CHF 3.6 billion in 2010. The Company invested in 2010 CHF 239 million in R&D, 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.

About Oerlikon Balzers

Oerlikon Balzers is the leading global supplier of coatings that significantly improve the performance and service lives of precision components as well as of tools for metal and plastics processing. The coatings developed by Oerlikon Balzers and marketed under the BALINIT® brand are extremely thin, feature exceptional hardness, and decisively reduce friction and wear. In addition, Oerlikon Balzers develops processes, manufactures and sells coating systems and production equipment, and offers coating services on a contract basis within a dynamically growing network of almost 90 coating centres in Europe, America and Asia.

Oerlikon Balzers is a Business Unit of the Swiss Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL). Worldwide, Oerlikon is one of the most successful high-tech industrial enterprises with a strong focus on machinery and plant engineering. The company stands for innovative industrial solutions and cutting-edge technologies for textile machinery, thin-film coatings, drives, vacuum and solar systems as well as advanced technology.