

**Press release****Oerlikon Balzers Awarded Seal of Approval “Innovative Alliance”****The coating specialist receives recognition from the European Research Association for Sheet Metal Working**

**Balzers/Schopfheim/Hannover, October 28, 2014 – Oerlikon Balzers Coating Germany, the German branch of Liechtenstein-based coating specialist Oerlikon Balzers, was awarded with the seal of approval “Innovative Alliance” by the European Research Association for Sheet Metal Working (EFB) at the International Sheet Metal Working Technology Exhibition EuroBLECH in Hannover.**

This recognition is granted to companies that play an active role in EFB’s network of organizations and research institutes, advancing pre-competitive research in the sheet metal working areas of materials, production methods, and quality assurance. As an association for the companies and research institutes in the sheet metal working sector and related industries, the EFB initiates and funds application-related research. In doing so, it acts as an innovation driver for the sheet metal working technology chain. Due to many years of continuous research collaboration, Oerlikon Balzers stood out in EFB’s Innovative Alliance, as was stated in the announcement of the award.

EFB’s activities at today’s Oerlikon Balzers base in Schopfheim, which has traditionally been active in the metal forming area, especially for the automobile industry, reach back as far as 1988. Since then, the company has participated in numerous research projects investigating how coating expertise can contribute to the development of sheet metal forming fundamentals and their advancement. Examples for this are the EFB projects “The effects of selected parameters on tool wear and form accuracy in the punch-packaging of electrical sheets” or “Analysis and effects of heat balance in sheet forming”.

“We are very grateful for the honor and the important networking activity of the EFB, which has brought us into contact with many competent partners in this industry. Sheet forming is a process that can only be advanced through the cooperation of specialists from different areas. We are happy to be in a position to make our contribution in the future as well,” said Uwe Horschig, Branch Manager at Oerlikon Balzers in Schopfheim, at the presentation of the seal. The seals were awarded to several member companies at EFB’s anniversary celebration commemorating “65 years of research in sheet working” at the EuroBLECH exhibition in Hannover.



**Download-Link:** [https://www.dropbox.com/s/lkl7uwnwv0uzrx5/FotorechtEFB\\_EFB-Guetesiegel-EB2014-Oerlikon\\_Balzers.jpg?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/lkl7uwnwv0uzrx5/FotorechtEFB_EFB-Guetesiegel-EB2014-Oerlikon_Balzers.jpg?dl=0)

**Photo:** ©EFB

**Caption:** EFB President Wilfried Jakob (left) and EFB Managing Director Norbert Wellmann (right) presenting the seal of approval “Innovative Alliance” to Uwe Horschig of Oerlikon Balzers (center).

For further questions please contact:

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#### **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 BALIN-IT 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). In Germany approximately 640 employees in 10 locations are providing services for wear and tear protection. Oerlikon Balzers, together with Oerlikon, is a part of the Metco Surface Solutions segment of the Swiss Oerlikon Group. (SIX: OERL).

#### **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, surface solutions and advanced nanotechnology. A Swiss company with a tradition going back over 100 years, Oerlikon is a global player with around 15 500 employees at over 170 locations in 35 countries and pro-forma sales of CHF 3.6 billion in 2013. The Company invested in 2013 CHF 146 million in R&D (pro-forma 2013), 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.