

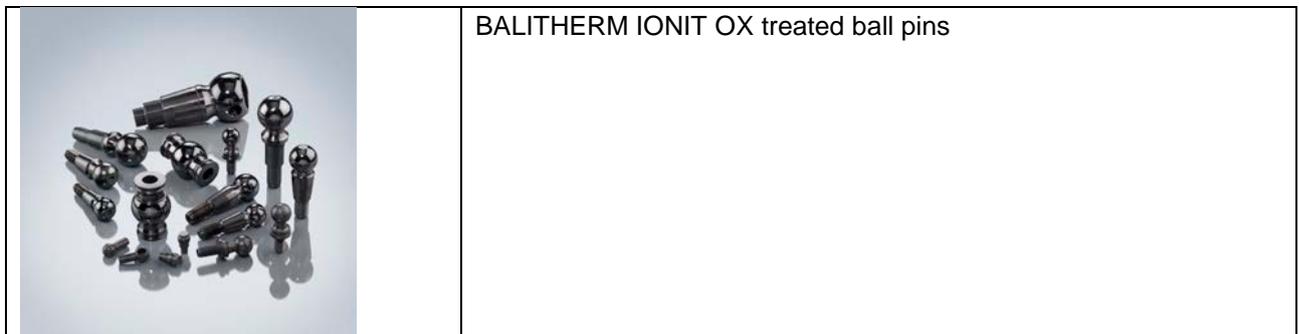
Media release

Oerlikon Balzers receives Excellent Supplier award from THK Rhythm

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 30 May 2017 - Oerlikon Balzers has received the 2016 Award for Supplier Excellence from THK Rhythm in Changzhou, China. Oerlikon Balzers was recognized for its contributions to THK's culture of excellence and commitment to quality, value and cost performance.

THK Rhythm Changzhou in China is part of the Japanese THK Group and is a component supplier for the automotive industry. Since 2011, Oerlikon Balzers has developed customized plasma heat treatment solutions for and in close cooperation with THK Rhythm in Changzhou. The advanced heat treatment process BALITHERM IONIT OX has been adapted to meet THK's needs, focusing on optimum wear and corrosion protection for ball pins.

The BALITHERM IONIT OX process makes ball pins, tie rods, brake discs and many other suspension components wear-resistant and durable. Moreover, no hazardous chemicals are used. Thus BALITHERM IONIT OX is the efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to common methods of treatment such as hard chrome plating or salt bath nitriding. Oerlikon Balzers treats millions of ball pins every year for leading vehicle manufacturers worldwide.

**For further information, 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 BALINIT and BALIQ brand names, reduce friction and wear. The BALITHERM brand opens up a broad range of heat treatment services, whereas BALTONE comprises

coatings that are available in a full range of elegant colours, perfectly suited for decorative applications. Under the technology brand ePD, the company develops integrated services and solutions for the metallization of plastic parts with chrome effects. Worldwide, more than 1'100 coating systems are in operation at Oerlikon Balzers facilities and its customers. Equipment engineering and assembly of Balzers' machines are processed in Liechtenstein and in Bergisch Gladbach (Germany). Oerlikon Balzers operates a dynamically growing network of more than 100 coating centres in 35 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).

About the Surface Solutions Segment

The Surface Solutions Segment of the Oerlikon Group includes the two brands Oerlikon Balzers and Oerlikon Metco. **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 BALINIT and BALIQ brand names, reduce friction and wear. The BALITHERM brand opens up a broad range of heat treatment services, whereas BALTONE comprises coatings that are available in a full range of elegant colours, perfectly suited for decorative applications. Under the technology brand ePD, the company develops integrated services and solutions for the metallization of plastic parts with chrome effects. Worldwide, more than 1'100 coating systems are in operation at Oerlikon Balzers facilities and its customers. Equipment engineering and assembly of Balzers' machines are processed in Liechtenstein and in Bergisch Gladbach (Germany).

Oerlikon Metco enhances surfaces with coating solutions and equipment. Customers benefit from a uniquely broad range of surface technologies, coating solutions, equipment, materials, services, and specialized machining services and components. The innovative solutions improve performance and increase efficiency and reliability. As innovation leader, Oerlikon Metco is forging new paths with materials for additive manufacturing (AM). Oerlikon Metco serves industries such as power generation, aviation, automotive, and other specialized markets. The **Surface Solutions Segment** operates a dynamically growing network of currently more than 145 facilities with over 140 coating centres in 37 countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia, employing more than 6 000 people. The Surface Solutions Segment is part of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).