

Press release**Oerlikon Balzers wins the A3TS Innovation Award 2017 with BALIFOR M**

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 16 November 2017 – Oerlikon Balzers has been awarded the A3TS Innovation Award 2017 at the Vacuum Technologies and Materials Treatment Exhibition (SVTM) in Nice, France, for the MoN-surface solution for the automotive market, BALIFOR M.

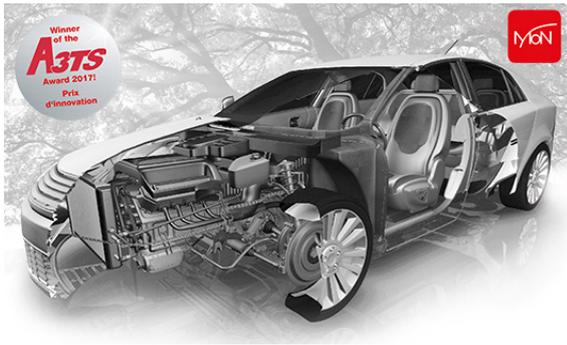
Oerlikon Balzers presented BALIFOR M in one of their two key notes about solutions for the automotive industry, going on to win the prize due to the innovational impact of the surface solution.

The automotive industry is constantly challenged by legal, environmental, political and social expectations, which have to be fulfilled within the industrial process at financially tolerable conditions. With this challenge, the automotive manufacturers and their suppliers constantly push the boundaries of up-to-date technologies, searching for newer, better solutions. Oerlikon Balzers collaborates with the manufacturers and their suppliers in the development of new solutions and processes.

Where stable conditions in tribological contacts under high loads at high temperatures are required, the stability of carbon-based coatings ends: at approximately 350° C, under high loads, even at 250° C. BALIFOR M guarantees the best protection of both friction partners at high temperatures of up to 800° C, and has an excellent compatibility with aggressive lubricants and additives.

“Our test results with customers prove the excellent performance of BALIFOR M when it comes to piston pins, exhaust tract applications or Cam-followers. We are very proud about the award, as it proves once again that we can cooperate with our customers and deliver innovative solutions that help them overcome their challenges,” says Jochen Weyandt, Head of Automotive Solutions at Oerlikon Balzers. “We are constantly developing new solutions to support our customers – and they find out more and more that surface solutions are key when friction is the point.”

For further information, please visit our website at www.oerlikon.com/balzers/



Oerlikon Balzers has been awarded the A3TS Innovation Award 2017.



The team of Oerlikon Balzers at the SVTM with their presentation booth: Smail Asziz, Astrid Gies, Frédéric Meunier and Joerg Jorzick

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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 BALIFOR, the company develops the technologies for tailor-made solutions for the automotive market, and ePD delivers 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 headquartered in Liechtenstein. 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

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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).