

Media Release**Oerlikon Balzers builds Competence Centre for sustainable metallisation of plastics with a chrome look**

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 16 May 2019 – **On 7 May Oerlikon Balzers, leading provider of advanced surface solutions, laid the foundation stone for its new Competence Centre in Bisingen, Germany. Once open by the end of the year, components made from plastic, primarily for the automotive sector, will be metallised with a chrome look using sustainable ePD technology on a site covering several thousand square metres. More than 100 new jobs will be created at the Bisingen Competence Centre, which will enable Oerlikon Balzers to meet the high demand and ever increasing requirements of its customers from the automotive sector.**

High-end components with high-gloss metallic or matt surfaces and a chrome look are being used more and more in interior and exterior vehicle design and in consumer electronics, not only because are they fashionable, but also because they increase the performance and value of these products. The ePD technology from Oerlikon Balzers is an innovative coating method for high-end metallisation of plastic components. This technology complies with the REACH standard as it is a sustainable alternative to galvanic methods, which involve chromium (VI) and can be hazardous to health. The fully integrated and automated INUBIA I6 and I15 production systems have been designed for large-scale manufacturing and produce metallised components without any harmful substances, and the new Competence Centre will meet all environmental production standards in their entirety.

The site in Bisingen will be used for more than just metallising plastic components for customers; Oerlikon Balzers experts will also further develop the ePD process and be on hand to explain everything about the technology to interested businesses, including how ePD systems can be integrated into their production lines. The new Competence Centre will combine the ePD services previously offered at other sites, releasing capacity required for other technologies elsewhere.

Jochen Weyandt, Head of Business Unit Automotive Solutions at Oerlikon, is looking forward to the new Competence Centre: “The high demand for our sustainable ePD technology proves that it is making an impact in the automotive market. As a specialist partner for our automotive customers and their suppliers, the new Competence Centre will allow us to make the most of our expanded capacity in order to offer them perfectly chromed surfaces and optional additional features for interior and exterior automotive design. But it’s not just the automotive industry that is showing interest in REACH-compliant functional chrome surfaces: whether in the sanitary industry or in all kinds of end user products, there are countless applications which are excellently suited for coating with ePD.”

For more information about Oerlikon Balzers' ePD technology, visit
<https://www.oerlikon.com/balzers/epd>



During the official groundbreaking ceremony, the mayor of Bisingen and the project partners placed a time capsule into the recess of the concrete slab of the new competence centre. From left to right: Okan Akbas (Ronge Industriebau GmbH), Roman Waizenegger (Mayor of the Municipality of Bisingen), Christof Späth (Head of Business Line ePD at Oerlikon Balzers), Torsten Martens (Property Team AG) and Stephen Kolling (Project Manager Competence Centre Bisingen at Oerlikon Balzers).

For more 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. BALIMED ThinFilm coatings, with wear-resistant, biocompatible, antimicrobial and chemically inert properties, have been developed especially for medical applications. Under the BALIFOR technology brand the company has introduced technologies which provide tailor-made solutions for the automotive market, while ePD allows the metallisation of plastic parts with a chrome look.

Worldwide, more than 1'100 coating systems are in operation at Oerlikon Balzers facilities and its customers. Equipment engineering and assembly of Balzers' systems are processed in Liechtenstein, in Langenthal (Switzerland) 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 and Oerlikon AM – part of the Surface Solutions Segment of the Switzerland-based Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL).