

Press Release

Oerlikon acquired diamond coating technology leader, D-Coat, in Germany

Balzers, Liechtenstein, and Erkelenz, Germany, 8 January 2020 – **Oerlikon has acquired D-Coat GmbH, a leading provider of diamond coating technology in Germany. The acquisition expands Oerlikon Balzers' portfolio of surface treatment technologies, especially for cutting tools applied in the aerospace and automotive industries.**

D-Coat GmbH a German company founded in 2006, is recognised as a technology leader in diamond coatings for cutting tools, in particular for carbon fibre reinforced polymers used in structures of airplanes, ships, vehicles and other areas where sustained high reliability during long-term operation is needed. D-Coat is a globally preferred supplier of these coating applications for major airplane manufacturers.

"D-Coat's technologies complement Oerlikon Balzers' existing diamond coating services extremely well. Combining our expertise makes us a clear technology leader for these applications", said Marc Desrayaud, Head of Business Unit Balzers Industrial Solutions at Oerlikon.

"We intend to leverage the synergies from our combined technological power and expertise to create the best diamond coating solutions and services for tooling customers in the aerospace, automotive, die and mold and other industries", said Dr Wolfgang Kalss, Head of Business Line Cutting Tools at Oerlikon Balzers. "D--Coat will be our fourth and biggest Customer Centre for diamond coatings, in addition to the centres in the USA and Korea, and will expand the portfolio of our Centre of Competence for Diamond Coatings in Luxembourg. In total, D-Coat is our 113th global Customer Centre."

D-Coat supplies diamond coatings using the hot-filament chemical vapour deposition (HFCVD) method. The deposition of diamond films using HFCVD is suitable for coating surfaces, three-dimensional base bodies and for interior diamond coating. When applied to tools, machine components or electrodes, these coatings provide resistance against most chemical substances, low friction coefficients even in low lubrication conditions, and maximum wear resistance even when in contact with abrasive substances.

The acquisition is another step forward in Oerlikon's strategy to strengthen its surface solutions portfolio and provide more value for customers. As a result of the acquisition, D-Coat is now part of Oerlikon

Balzers, a leader in surface solutions with an established global R&D and production network. All day-to-day operations at the existing D-Coat site, including business and cooperation with D-Coat customers and partners, will continue as usual, now as part of Oerlikon Balzers. The acquisition agreement was signed and closed in December 2019 and both parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price.

“We are pleased to be merging our team with the experts from Oerlikon Balzers”, said Dirk Breidt, co-founder of D-Coat. “Becoming a part of Oerlikon Balzers will help us grow the business diamond coating on cutting tools”, said Olaf Dietrich, also co-founder of D-Coat.



Oerlikon Balzers has acquired the German company D-Coat GmbH. From left to right, after contract signing: Dr Wolfgang J. Schmitz (Regional Executive Europe, Oerlikon Balzers), Dirk Breidt (Managing Director Production & Development, D-Coat GmbH), Olaf Dietrich (Business Managing Director, D-Coat GmbH), Corinna Heinz (Oerlikon Balzers), Dr Wolfgang Kalss (Head of Cutting Tools, Oerlikon Balzers)

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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 110 coating centres in 36 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).