

Media Release**Oerlikon Balzers wins 2014 Red Dot Award****Distinction for the two innovative coating systems INUBIA B6 and PPD.**

Balzers, Liechtenstein, 6 August 2014 – Oerlikon Balzers has beaten some tough competition to become one of the winners of this year's Red Dot Award. The international panel of judges confirmed the high quality of design delivered by the two coating systems INUBIA B6 and PPD designed by Peter Klien (Design Forum Technik, Liechtenstein).

The two prize-winning coating systems combine leading-edge coating technology with simple handling and shapely design. The Balzers engineers and physicists have succeeded in extending their technological edge with these two systems. The prize-winning machines are already in use at the first coating centres.

Reproducible, decorative layers and ecofriendly processes

The INUBIA B6 coating unit has been designed especially for efficient surface treatment of components in the high-end design segment, where coating quality and appearance, durability, economy and reproducibility are all of equal importance. INUBIA enables fast and flexible coating of the most diverse substrate materials and geometries. The highly decorative coatings are available in many nuanced colours and are used for design elements in many areas including clocks and watches, jewellery, bathroom decor, consumer and entertainment electronics as well as automotive interiors.

The PPD system is the largest of its kind in the world and can process even the largest forming tools in the automotive industry. It is based on the Pulsed-Plasma Diffusion (PPD) process developed by Oerlikon Balzers, which is an efficient and clean replacement for the hard-chrome plating processed generally used in the automotive industry. Using the PPD method, effective protection against wear is provided for tools used by car manufacturers to press car body parts such as doors from flat sheets. Thanks to a combination of hydrogen, nitrogen and electricity, PPD uses no chemical pollutants.

International scale

A panel of forty international experts discussed and assessed 4,815 entries from 53 nations for this year's awards, distinguishing only those designs that excelled in terms of quality and innovation: among them, the INUBIA B6 and the PPD system. They are on show in the prize-winners' exhibition at the Red Dot Design Museum in Essen.

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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. 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).

About the Surface Solutions Segment

The Oerlikon Surface Solutions Segment 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 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 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. 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 130 facilities with over 110 coating centers in 35 countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia, employing around 6 000 people. The Surface Solutions Segment is part of the Switzerland-based 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.