

Oerlikon Balzers wins the Magna Supplier Innovation Award 2022 with its Smart Coatings

Bingen, Germany / Balzers, Liechtenstein, March 22, 2023 – **Oerlikon Balzers, a world-leading technology brand of Oerlikon for thin-film coatings, has won the Magna Supplier Innovation Award 2022 in the “Transmission Solutions” category with its Smart Coatings. Magna’s powertrain division, one of the world’s leading Tier 1 automotive suppliers, had invited companies for the fifth time to submit their ideas for future and sustainable powertrains in its “Supplier Innovation Challenge”. Oerlikon Balzers took first prize with its idea to use thin-film coatings as sensors for real-time monitoring of automotive components, a development which once again underscores the innovative power of Oerlikon’s technology.**

In spring 2022, the powertrain division of Magna invited potential new partners such as suppliers or universities to submit their ideas for the “Supplier Innovation Challenge 2022” in four different categories where Magna, as a Tier 1 supplier for powertrain systems, is facing new challenges. Magna’s initiative gives companies the opportunity to be involved in co-engineering processes at an early stage, promoting the joint development of innovative products for successful, long-term collaboration. More than 40 applicants submitted their ideas, and in the “Transmission Solutions” category Oerlikon Balzers took first place with its idea of Smart Coatings. Oerlikon is proud of this award because Magna is considered a strategic cooperation partner for future developments.

Smart Coatings – real-time system monitoring for sustainable mobility

Modern vehicles incorporate around 100 miniature sensors that monitor the status of various components in real time. Sensor arrays are integrated on the components themselves using thin-film sensors, adding important value by capturing data on load, temperature, pressure, etc., and enabling real-time measurement of the load status of individual components. Experts from Oerlikon in Germany, Finland and Liechtenstein have worked together to develop feasible applications using Smart Coatings.

High level of innovation for advanced surface solutions in the automotive industry

“Winning this award from Magna, one of the world’s biggest automotive suppliers, is a great honor for us and demonstrates once again our high level of innovation in developing sustainable solutions for future generations of vehicles. This innovation also opens up completely new fields of application in coating technology,” says Dr. Christian Scholz, Product Manager Service Components Automotive. He continues: “Oerlikon has been a strong partner for customers in the automotive industry for many years. Especially in

an industry experiencing profound change, it fills us with pride to support companies with innovative ideas that help them overcome major challenges.”



Left: Dr. Astrid Gies; Center: Dr. Christian Scholz; Right (from left): Jukka Kolehmainen, Juha Haikola, Sanna Tervakangas, Esa Haikola

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About the Oerlikon Surface Solutions Division

Oerlikon is a leading global provider of surface and additive manufacturing solutions and services. The division offers an extensive portfolio of market-leading thin-film, thermal spray and additive manufacturing technologies, equipment, components and materials. Emission reduction in transportation, maximized longevity and performance of tools and components, increased efficiency and intelligent materials are hallmarks of its leadership. Pioneering technology for decades, the division serves customers with standardized and customized solutions across a worldwide network of more than 170 sites in 37 countries.

With its technology brands – Oerlikon Balzers, Oerlikon Metco and Oerlikon AM – the Oerlikon Surface Solutions division focuses on technologies and services that improve and maximize performance, function, design, reliability and sustainability, which are innovative, game-changing advantages for customers in the automotive, aviation, tooling and general industries and in the luxury, medical, semiconductors, power generation and oil & gas markets.

The division is part of the publicly listed Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL), headquartered in Switzerland, which has more than 12 100 employees and generated CHF 2.9 billion in revenue in 2022.

For more information see: www.oerlikon.com/surface-solutions