

Expansion in environmentally friendly coatings for plastics**Oerlikon Balzers takes over the German hartec Anlagenbau**

Balzers, December 3, 2010 – Oerlikon Balzers will take over the hartec Group, which specializes in PVD coatings, from January 1, 2011 and thereby further expand its leading position in the global coatings market. "The acquisition of hartec, a pioneer in its field, means that we are expanding into environmentally friendly, decorative and functional coatings for plastics," said Dr. Hans Brändle, CEO of Oerlikon Balzers.

Oerlikon Balzers will take over hartec Anlagenbau, based in the German town of Stetten, on January 1, 2011. The future subsidiary, to be known as Oerlikon Balzers hartec GmbH, employs around 30 employees and will be acquired in its entirety. "We have been searching for a long time for a partner under whose roof we can continue to pursue our strategic goals. The Oerlikon Group was our preferred partner from the outset and we are proud that we are now to be a part of it," said the two current owners, Dipl. Ing. Carlos Ribeiro, and Dr. Rüdiger Schäfer. Both will continue to play an active role in Oerlikon Balzers hartec.

"Our acquisition of hartec is a further expansion of our position in the area of component coatings and will open up further growth opportunities," said Dr. Hans Brändle, CEO of Oerlikon Balzers. Dr. Brändle anticipates that PVD coatings used in combination with appropriate lacquer technology will gradually replace galvanic coating processes. "PVD technology is more environmentally friendly and allows innovative new applications, particularly in the automotive sector," according to Dr. Brändle.

The Oerlikon Management demonstrates with this acquisition once more, that it is actively developing the Group in an organic manner as well as by specific changes to its portfolio. "We are again investing in sustainable growth markets and commercially viable future technologies. The acquisition of the hartec Group underscores our target oriented method to achieve long-term profitable growth. We are on a very good way to achieve the Group-wide turnaround," said Group CEO Dr. Michael Buscher.

For further information, please contact:

Burkhard Böndel Group Communications and Investor Relations Phone +41 58 360 96 02 Fax +41 58 360 91 93 pr@oerlikon.com www.oerlikon.com	Holger Rungwerth Head of Communications Phone +423 388 50 24 Fax +434 499 54 78 holger.rungwerth@oerlikon.com www.oerlikon.com/balzers
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About Oerlikon Balzers

Oerlikon Balzers is the world's leading supplier of surface technologies, which significantly improve the performance and durability of precision components as well as tools for the metal and plastics processing industries. These coatings, marketed under the BALINIT® brand name, are extremely thin and exceptionally hard. They significantly reduce friction and wear. Oerlikon Balzers also develops processes, manufactures and sells systems and production facilities, and offers contract coating services through a dynamically growing network of nearly 90 coating centers in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

Oerlikon Balzers is a Business Unit of the Swiss Oerlikon Group (SIX: OERL). Oerlikon 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 textile manufacturing, thin-film coating, drive, vacuum, solar energy systems and advanced nanotechnology.

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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 textile manufacturing, thin-film coating, drive, vacuum, solar energy systems and advanced nanotechnology. A Swiss company with a tradition going back 150 years, Oerlikon is a global player with around 16,000 employees at 157 locations in 36 countries and sales of CHF 2.9 billion in 2009. The Company invests more than CHF 200 million annually in R&D, with over 1,200 specialists working on future products and services. The operative businesses rank either first or second in their respective global markets.