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EANS-News: Semperit AG Holding / Modernisation of Semperform Production in Wimpassing

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Company Information/Investment

The Semperit Group will rely on the Ultra High Frequency Technology (UHF) in the Segment Semperform. About EUR 7 million will be invested to modernise production operations at the Wimpassing plant in Lower Austria. This represents a continuation of the Semperit Group's expansion and modernisation drive at its plant in Wimpassing. A total of approximately EUR 40 million will be invested in the period 2012 to 2015.

The use of the UHF Technology serves as the basis for Semperit to substantially increase production and targets new customer groups. The first of the three new UHF facilities is currently in the start-up phase and will be converted to regular operations over the next few months. When fully installed, the three facilities will process more than 6,000 tonnes of raw rubber mix annually into rubber profiles.

"Our new UHF production line in Wimpassing will enable us to strengthen the leading market position of Semperform and create the basis for further growth", says Thomas Fahnenmann, Chief Executive Officer of Semperit AG Holding. "We are rounding off our product portfolio in existing market segments and tapping new customer groups in construction and industry. The investments also comprise a clear commitment to the Wimpassing site, and a further step towards achieving our strategic growth targets", Fahnenmann adds.

Aluminium windows as growth market

Thanks to the uniform heating of rubber mixtures, the UHF Technology offers considerable production advantages, especially for profiles with a medium or high wall thickness. This is particularly suited for aluminium windows, which are increasingly in demand as a consequence of the trend towards saving energy. In the future Semperform will serve this growth market as a complete provider of sealing profiles. In addition, the investments in the UHF Technology give Semperform the opportunity to open up new product segments with more complex geometrical and material requirements, for example high quality seals for aluminium windows and facades as well as pipe seals.

Investments at the main plant in Wimpassing

The Semperit Group is continuing its expansion and modernisation efforts as shown by Semperform's deployment of the UHF Technology and other future-oriented investments in the medical and industrial sectors. In 2014, the capacity of the surgical gloves production was increased by the installation of a new washing line and dryers. Moreover, process control of the mixing plant was modernised and a new ribbon lap machine for industrial hoses was put into operation in the Segment Semperflex.

About Semperit

The publicly listed company Semperit AG Holding is an internationally-oriented group that develops, produces, and sells in more than 100 countries highly specialised rubber and plastic products for the medical and industrial sectors: examination and surgical gloves, hydraulic and industrial hoses, conveyor belts, escalator handrails, construction profiles, cable car rings, and products for railway superstructures. The headquarters of this long-standing Austrian company, which was founded in 1824, are located in Vienna, and the global R & D centre is in Wimpassing, Lower Austria. The Semperit Group employs about 11,200 people worldwide, including more than 7,000 in Asia and more than 700 in Austria

(Vienna and production site in Wimpassing, Lower Austria). The Group has 22 manufacturing facilities worldwide and numerous sales offices in Europe, Asia, and America. In 2013 the group generated sales of EUR 906 million and an EBITDA of EUR 133 million.

About Semperform

The Segment Semperform of the Semperit Group is a leading European manufacturer of moulded and extrusion products made of rubber and plastic. The extensive product portfolio ranges from escalator handrails, elastomer and seal profiles for windows and doors, anti-vibration membranes for skis and snowboards to sleeper beds for railway tracks and cable car rings. These customised products are manufactured at production sites in Austria, Germany, Hungary and China. Semperform plans to further expand its strong position in profitable market niches. In the 2013 fiscal year, the Segment Semperform generated revenue of EUR 131 million (about 14% of total Group revenue), and an EBITDA of EUR 25 million.

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