

17.09.2004 – 08:02 Uhr

**euro adhoc: Andritz AG / Mergers - Acquisitions - Takeovers / Andritz expands product portfolio in Rolling Mills and Strip Processing Lines Area (E)**

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Graz, 17 September 2004. International Andritz Group has purchased certain assets and know how of insolvent Otto Kaiser GmbH, headquartered in Bretten, Germany, a manufacturer of high-performance mechanical presses for the processing of steel strip into stampings and drawing parts.

The acquisition of assets of Otto Kaiser GmbH, whose annual sales amounted to approx. 30 to 35 MEUR before becoming insolvent this summer, enables Andritz to extend its range of products for the business area Rolling Mills and Strip Processing Lines to machinery and equipment for the "downstream" area of strip finishing. The stamping and cutting presses offered by Kaiser are mainly used in the automotive supplier industry, supplementing strip slitters, cut-to-length equipment, as well as integrated cutting lines for tailored blanks that are currently offered by Andritz.

"Otto Kaisers product and technology portfolio is a valuable supplement to our existing product range. The acquisition is a logical continuation of this business areas strategic focus on value added steel strip production", says Andritz CEO Wolfgang Leitner.

**About the Andritz Group**

Publicly listed Andritz Group is a global market leader for advanced production systems for pulp and paper, steel and other specialized industries. As of June 30, 2004, Andritz had a staff of 4,885 employees worldwide. It develops and makes its high-tech systems at 16 production sites (Austria, Germany, Finland, Denmark, France, Netherlands, USA, Canada, and China).

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Branche: Machine Manufacturing  
ISIN: AT0000730007  
WKN:  
Index: ATX, ATX Prime, WBI  
Börsen: Wiener Börse AG / official dealing

Original content of: Andritz AG, transmitted by news aktuell

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