

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sulzer Metco complements its product portfolio for thin-film coatings

Sulzer Acquires Diamond-like Carbon Coatings Activities from Bekaert

Sulzer and Bekaert, today announced the completion of the acquisition of Bekaert's diamond-like carbon (DLC) coatings activities. The transaction value amounts to EUR 11.0 million (CHF 14.5 million). This business with its leading DLC technology achieved sales of EUR 12.5 million (CHF 16.5 million) in 2009. The acquisition will expand the geographical presence and complement the technology range of Sulzer Metco in the thin-film coatings market.

Bekaert's diamond-like carbon (DLC) coatings business develops and markets thin-film coatings, which combine very low frictional resistance and extreme hardness. The coatings are used to reduce wear and friction in a wide range of industrial applications, such as machine parts, automotive components, and molds for plastics and metals.

The transaction will enhance Sulzer Metco's service network in Europe and the USA. It covers all six production plants in Belgium, France, Germany, and the USA with approximately 150 employees in total. The DLC business will be integrated into Sulzer Metco's existing thin-film coating activities, which focus on machining, forming, general automotive, racing, semiconductors and plastic-processing applications.

Sulzer Metco is a leading global supplier of services and products for surface solutions, covering both thermal-spray and thin-film coating technologies.

Sulzer was founded in 1834 in Winterthur, Switzerland, and today is active in machinery and equipment manufacturing and surface engineering at over 120 locations worldwide. The divisions are global leaders in their respective customer segments, which include the oil and gas, hydrocarbon processing, power generation, pulp and paper, aviation, and automotive industries. www.sulzer.com

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a global technological leader in its two core competences: advanced metal transformation and advanced materials and coatings, and it is a market leader in drawn wire products and applications. Bekaert is a global company with headquarters in Belgium that employs 23 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generates annual combined sales of € 3.3 billion.

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