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Technological milestone and foundation for growth

With the new production system for reducing agents, Brüggemann strengthens its market position for highly specialized chemical products – new standards in sustainability, energy efficiency and quality – Renewed commitment to Heilbronn site

HEILBRONN – “With the launch of our newest process technology, we are continuing to build up our market position as the leading provider of highly specialized chemical products in the field of sophisticated reducing agents.” Brüggemann Managing Director Joachim Hofmann is convinced that the investment of seven million euro for the new production facility at the company headquarters in Heilbronn is money well spent. “This is an important building block in our strategy moving forward and a guarantee for continued organizational growth and new areas of application. “Around the world, we deliver the decisive connection,” stresses Hofmann, “and in the future, this will be especially energy efficient and sustainable.”

The heart of the new five-story complex is a spray dryer for microgranules with a capacity of 5000 metric tons per year. Alongside the equally newly launched production facility for polymer additives, this expansion of capacity is a decisive moment.

“The new dryer for microgranules offers the optimal prerequisites to allow us to provide our newest product innovation – patented initiators for emulsion polymerization and antioxidants – in extremely high quality and in the quantities expected of us,” explains Brüggemann’s Managing Director, Dr. Josef Berghofer. “In the new facility, we can bring our decades of experience in this area to bear. That is a factor which, together with the technological progress, significantly facilitates

the development of new product characteristics.” Available capacity can be used by customers for contract drying, allowing them to profit from Brüggemann’s expertise. The spray drying of aqueous, solvent-containing and oxidation-sensitive solutions, suspensions and emulsions is a key technology for numerous areas of application.

For especially energy-efficient drying, the new system is fed with waste heat from the company’s own Combined heat and power unit. The use of recycled energy completes the environmentally friendly overall concept: Purified waste water from the production process is prepared and fed back into the production process.

Alongside the ecological aspects and the progress in terms of occupational safety that accompany the launch of this facility, customers also profit from new delivery forms: “With this, we have further optimized our potential for the continued development of the production of sensitive and highly reactive systems,” says Dr. Berghofer. “The intelligent combination of reaction, formulation and drying allows us the most flexible production possible.” What is particularly important for customers is the production of rapidly dispersable or soluble microgranules with even more flexible particle geometry and particle hardening, right through to multi-component systems. The new, dust-free product forms generated in this way are particularly appealing thanks to their high dissolution speed in water or extremely rapid dispersibility in polymer matrices. All of this, and at the same time, dust-free and extremely high flowability. These features are ensured through a Cleaning in Place system (CIP) which effectively prevents product cross-contamination. This allows for additional markets to be served reliably.

For the shareholder and chairman Ronald Ayles, the new production facility is another visible sign of the company’s commitment to the Heilbronn site. As well as being part of a comprehensive further development of the facilities in both technical and ecological terms.

L. Brüggemann GmbH & Co. KG, an independent family company headquartered in Heilbronn (Germany), offers tailor-made solutions in the areas of synthetic additives, industrial chemicals and ethanol. With around 250 employees, Brüggemann specializes in the development and production of reducing agents on the basis of sulfur, zinc derivatives, AP-NYLON® Additives and high-performance additives for polyamides and polyester. Furthermore, Brüggemann is an innovative partner in the field of ethanol, for example in the pharmaceutical, chemical and cosmetic industries, as well as in the area of disinfectants. Founded in Heilbronn in 1868, Brüggemann now supplies customers in more than 60 countries. With subsidiaries in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, the USA and Hong Kong, the company has an annual turnover of around 150 million EUR.

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