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## **A new landmark that's smart in the inside**

**Brüggemann launches cutting-edge production system for polymer additives – Larger capacity and more flexibility in responding to customer requirements – € 25 million invested in the industry standard 4.0 – Renewed commitment to Heilbronn site**

HEILBRONN – Brüggemann continues its commitment to moving towards digital production at Heilbronn. The new building in which, among other things, solid polymer additives in powder and granulate form are bundled, is not just impressive due to its 30-meter height. What is inside is also setting new standards: The nearly completely digitalized processes with their corresponding logic connections make it possible to respond flexibly and with the highest quality to customer needs. “The high level of automation not only permits significantly greater flexibility, it also ensures the highest standards for product safety, occupational safety and traceability,” says Managing Director Dr. Josef Berghofer. “With the new system, we are setting the standard for tailor-made additive mixtures and guaranteeing customer requirements are fulfilled in the long term.”

The interior life of the six-story complex is comprised of a modular, fully automated mixing, grinding and pelleting operation. Software-supported processes ensure optimized workflows: The raw ingredients required for formulations that have been entered into the system are transported with pinpoint accuracy from the storage space to the system, weighed exactly and then processed. “Only the delivery of raw materials and the packaging and pick-up of the final product are carried out manually,” says Dr. Josef Berghofer.

One of the notable additions that characterize this project is the integration of the fully automated container system and the modern, multi-level production system. The individual work steps are closely interconnected and, at the same time, scalable on a modular basis whenever necessary. Project Manager Michael Sommer: “It was a significant challenge to optimally integrate the individual software components and connect them to the existing database system.”

The new building is a tower of superlatives in more ways than one: The comprehensive digitization means that no compromises are made in terms of product and system safety while maintaining maximum flexibility. At the same time, the high-tech production system reliably prevents undesired contamination of the mixtures. All processes are seamlessly documented and can be traced at any time. For Brüggemann’s Managing Directors, Dr. Josef Berghofer and Joachim Hofmann, these strict logistics workflows also mean that it is significantly easier to change products in the system. Hofmann: “Thanks to the shorter reaction time for production orders, we can react much faster to the desires of our customers. Flexibility is extremely important for our customers, particularly in rapidly changing markets.”

The new production building with its systems fits precisely with the focus of the company on “chemical specialties”, for which Brüggemann is known throughout the world. For example, totally different requirement profiles are posed for materials by electromobility than for vehicles with traditional engines. “In this field, different formulations and additive packages are needed. That’s exactly what we are set up to provide,” stresses Dr. Josef Berghofer. “From consultation on the area of application, through testing, to customer-specific production, Brüggemann offers a comprehensive, one-stop service.”

The investment also creates space in existing buildings for the production of additional synthesis products and the expansion of our contract production

offerings. The growth curve of the company underlines its potential to expand in terms of quantity and product diversity. Brüggemann also supports its customers in preparing for the future in the field of plastics, such as the recycling of polymers or the addition of bio-based polymers. “The whole time, ensuring quality remains our focus, and not only with plastics that come into contact with food products. Our new system is setting new standards in this area,” says Joachim Hofmann.

The shareholder and chairman, Ronald Ayles, stresses that, “With the largest investment of our more than 150-year company history, we are underscoring our ambition to grow and our commitment to the Heilbronn site. Our polymer additives offer very interesting opportunities that we want to take full advantage of.”

*L. Brüggemann GmbH & Co. KG, an independent family company headquartered in Heilbronn (Germany), offers tailor-made solutions in the areas of synthetics 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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