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Investment Climate Continues to Be Friendly

German Composites Industry Remains Optimistic

For the eighth time Composites Germany has identified up-to-date key performance indicators (KPI) for the fiber-reinforced plastics market. As before, the survey covered all the member companies of the four biggest umbrella organizations of Composites Germany: AVK, CEC, CPF-Valley and the VDMA Working Group on Hybrid Lightweight Construction Technologies. Having received over 130 responses, the survey again represents a good cross section of the entire composites industry.

When asked to assess the general business situation in three regions - Germany, Europe and worldwide - the respondents came to highly positive conclusions again. While in the previous survey the vast majority described it as "quite positive" or "very positive" in all the three regions, the current survey even displays a slight increase in this positive view. For example, 81% of respondents see the current worldwide business situation as positive. For optimistic also pervades attitudes towards the future in general. For the vast majority of respondents believe that the situation will continue to develop positively in all the regions they were asked about, while some are even expecting further improvements.

Whereas the previous survey displayed a downturn in the satisfaction of businesses with their own current and future situations, the current survey clearly shows an increase. In the last survey, for instance, 29% said they were expecting the situation to improve in Europe, whereas in the current survey this value has now risen to 40%. By contrast, the proportion of those expecting a negative development has stagnated at 5%.

Positive values also continue to be observed in the investment climate. A clear shift can be noted, in particular, in machine investments. As before, nearly every other company is planning to recruit more staff. On the other hand, there has been a decline in the proportion of companies planning machine investment or seeing such investments as attractive. However, as before, about three quarters (73%) are still assuming that they will invest in machinery.

Second Plant in China

Automotive Supplier Expands

Boge Rubber & Plastics Group, Dormagen, Germany, is continuing on its growth path. Since the beginning of 2017, the company has been operating a second plant in China, the world's largest automotive market. The Automotive Business Unit of Zhuzhou Times New Material Technology Co., Ltd. (TMT) is now integrated into Boge Rubber & Plastics. TMT is the parent company of the automotive supplier Boge Rubber & Plastics. The name of the new company with approx. 200 employees is Boge Rubber & Plastics Zhuzhou Co. Ltd. This represents the second Chinese location for the German Group. Its first Chinese plant was opened in Qingshu (near Shanghai) in 2008. The new plant focuses on automotive products for vibration control technology and components for acoustic insulation. The core business of Boge Rubber & Plastics Zhuzhou Co. Ltd. currently revolves around the manufacture of rubber-metal components for commercial vehicles and buses. In 2016 the Zhuzhou plant reported a turnover of approx. EUR 29 million.

battenfeld-cincinnati USA Appoints Paul Godwin

New President and CEO

On January 1, 2017, Paul Godwin took over the position as President & CEO of battenfeld-cincinnati USA, McPherson, Kansas. Godwin brings with him an extensive experience in extrusion processes, material and equipment. He started his career with Dow Chemical in 1979 and held professional assignments with Bayer, HPM and Maag prior to joining battenfeld-cincinnati USA, where he led sales and marketing and, most recently, the engineering department.