

Press Information

Hansgrohe AG Intensifies its Devotion to “Made in Germany”

Construction of the new Hansgrohe fixtures factory in Offenburg begins February 12

Schiltach/Offenburg, February 11, 2008. Upon obtaining all of the required permits, the Hansgrohe AG Executive Board (www.hansgrohe.com) resolved to begin with the construction of a new fixtures factory in Offenburg tomorrow, the 12th of February. The bathroom and plumbing appliances specialist will be assembling the successful products *Talis* and *Metris* and sending them to the whole world by the end of the year from the 5,500 square meter, cutting-edge plant, which will be built in the Elgersweier industrial area between the two previously existing Hansgrohe production sites. With this move the company, headquartered in Schiltach, the Black Forest, is expanding its production capacities in Germany, which have already been significantly increased in the course of its dynamic growth in the last few years. “We appreciate the benefits of Germany as a location and the seal of quality ‘Made in Germany’, and we know we need to take advantage of that,” said Deputy Chairman of the Board and Chief Financial Officer for Hansgrohe AG, Siegfried Gänßlen. “It is precisely in our international business, which is so important for us, that German quality and workmanship are important selling points. Even today we generate the lion’s share of our revenue with products that we manufacture in Schiltach und Offenburg.” Along with the new building, there will also be a new direction in production strategy, which will focus on creating specialty centers within the Hansgrohe manufacturing alliance. With growth continuing, the innovative fixtures and shower manufacturer plans to invest a total of some 25 million euros by 2009 in the expansion of its production plants.

Key role for German location

The German location is being given a key role in the expansion of production capacities. This is because here, the company profits above all from the excellent qualifications of its specialists and the strength of their motivation. “Because of our strong vertical integration,” emphasized Siegfried Gänßlen, “we are reliant on especially qualified employees like the ones we find here in Ortenau and the creative minds it is famous for”. In order to continue to

Hansgrohe AG
Public Relations
Auestr. 5–9
D–77761 Schiltach
Germany

Phone +49 7836 51-1215
+49 7836 51-1226
+49 7836 51-1297
+49 7836 51-3009
Fax +49 7836 51-1170

public.relations@hansgrohe.com
www.hansgrohe.com

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extend our innovation leadership and thus our global competitiveness, we look to the know-how, the commitment, and the flexibility of our employees." The actual number of well-trained specialists comes to approximately 70 percent of the work force at Hansgrohe's German locations.

New jobs

Their number will continue to increase with the construction of Hansgrohe's fixtures factory in Offenburg. "With our positive business trend continuing, we would like to create up to 100 new jobs here in the next few years," declares Hansgrohe's head of finance. In just the past year, the Schiltach-based company augmented the number of positions in Germany by 130. This means that at 2,082 workers as of December 31, 2007, the number of employees in Germany was 6.7 percent higher than the previous year. Around the world, the number of staff climbed to 3,253 employees by the end of 2007 (December 31, 2006: 3,094), reaching a new record level.



Hansgrohe trusts in "Made in Germany": Bathroom fixtures will be sent around the world starting at the end of 2008 from the new Hansgrohe factory in Offenburg, construction of which begins February 12.

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About Hansgrohe – The Original from the Black Forest

In its 106-year history, the Hansgrohe company with official headquarters in Schiltach, the Black Forest, has acquired the reputation within the plumbing appliances industry as an innovation leader when it comes to technology and design. With its showers, fixtures, and shower systems, Hansgrohe creates the original products that make the bathroom more functional, more comfortable, and more beautiful. In 2006, the company generated sales of €569 million with its Axor, Hansgrohe, Pharo, and Pontos brands (2005: €476 million) – a gain of 20 percent as compared with the previous year. The company creates new jobs both in Germany and abroad based on this success. Today the Hansgrohe Group has more than 3,200 employees worldwide, two thirds of whom are in Germany. The company manufactures its products in five German plants, in France, the Netherlands, in the USA, and in China.

More information: Hansgrohe AG
 - Press Office -
 Dr. Carsten Tessmer/Franziska Moschke
 Phone: +49 (0) 7836/51-3009/-1215
 Fax: +49 (0) 7836/51-1170
 Email: public.relations@hansgrohe.com
 Internet: www.hansgrohe.com

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