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## PRESS RELEASE

The WITTMANN Group 2018

### **WITTMANN on course for further growth in 2018**

***In 2018, the WITTMANN Group again increased its sales figure compared to the previous year and thus continued its growth. Since the end of the year, however, the order situation has been showing first signs of slowing down.***

The WITTMANN Group realized 425 million Euros in sales in 2018, which represents an increase of just under 6% in turnover compared to the previous year. According to Michael Wittmann, Managing Director and CEO of the WITTMANN Group, this development is extremely satisfactory. With 2,415 associates, the Group's workforce was above the previous year's level. The excellent order income during the first half of 2018 was followed by a decline in the second half, especially in the months of November and December. But on the whole, the company could still start the fiscal year 2019 with a good order backing.

The special highlights of the fiscal year 2018 for WITTMANN BATTENFELD in Kottlingbrunn were the completion of extensive building projects, by which 2,200 m<sup>2</sup> were added to its production area. New administrative facilities were also built, which brought about generous extensions of the available office space. Added to this was the construction of a new R&D lab. On the production floor, the installation of the assembly lines for the *EcoPower* and *SmartPower* from 1,800 kN upwards was completed.

In addition to the extensions in Kottlingbrunn, the WITTMANN facilities in Nuremberg and the Czech Republic were expanded as well. Further extensions also took place in Mexico and Italy. The construction of a new, larger building in France, which was started in 2018, is now completed. The company moved into its new facilities at the end of April this year.

The extensive activities of the WITTMANN Group in connection with Industry 4.0 were supplemented in September 2018 by a stake in the Italian MES producer ICE-

flex. As a result, the WITTMANN 4.0 technologies of the group can now be integrated even more smoothly into the TEMI+ MES program.

Among the new product launches, the new *VPower* vertical machine model from WITTMANN BATTENFELD is the most outstanding novelty, which was presented to the general public for the first time at the Fakuma in the 160 ton clamping force size. In 2019, this machine series will be extended by adding further clamping force sizes. In the areas of robots, the popular PRIMUS series and the high-end WX robot series were supplemented by additional models. Particularly noteworthy among auxiliaries was the introduction of the new S-Max screenless granulator.

The year 2019 started for the Group with an order income on a par with 2016. Michael Wittmann, CEO of the WITTMANN Group, concludes that: “Innumerable political and economic uncertainties and discussions now finally have a lasting effect on the investment behavior in our industry, slowing it down. We were fully aware of the fact that the incredible succession of record results over the last 10 years would eventually come to an end. The slowdown has now just started in the last quarter of 2018. We expect that the year 2019 will continue on the current level.”



**Fig. 1:** WITTMANN Kunststoffgeräte GmbH Vienna



**Fig. 2:** WITTMANN BATTENFELD Kottlingbrunn

## **The WITTMANN Group**

The WITTMANN Group is a worldwide leader in the production of injection molding machines, robots and peripheral equipment for the plastics processing industry, headquartered in Vienna/Austria and consisting of two main divisions: WITTMANN BATTENFELD and WITTMANN. They jointly operate the companies of the group with eight production plants in five countries, and its additional sales and service companies are active with 34 facilities on all important plastics markets around the world.

WITTMANN BATTENFELD pursues the further expansion of its market position as an injection molding machine manufacturer and specialist for state-of-the-art process technologies. As a supplier of comprehensive, modern machine technology in modular design, the company meets both present and future market demands for plastics injection molding equipment.

The WITTMANN product portfolio includes robots and automation systems, material handling systems, dryers, gravimetric and volumetric blenders, granulators, temperature controllers and chillers. With this diversified range of peripheral units, WITTMANN offers plastics processors solutions to cover all production requirements, ranging from independent production cells to integrated plant-wide systems.

The syndication of the various segments under the umbrella of the WITTMANN Group has led to complete connectivity between the various product lines, for the benefit of plastics processors with an increasing demand for seamless integration of processing machinery with automation and peripherals.

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