

Press information

ATB builds a technology centre in the Millenium Park in Lustenau

Lustenau, May 13, 2005. Today, the Millenium Park in Lustenau was the scene of a groundbreaking ceremony for the new ATB Austria Antriebstechnik technology centre. The ceremony, which was attended by high-ranking representatives of the federal province of Vorarlberg and the market district of Lustenau, marked the begin of construction work by ATB, which is based in Spielberg/Styria, on a highly modern facility that will house the R&D for the entire international motor group, which currently employs a workforce of around 4,000.

Together with the governor of Vorarlberg, Herbert Sausgruber, district head, Hans Mathis and the mayor of Lustenau, Hans-Dieter Grabher, the ATB co-owner and Supervisory Board Chairman, Mirko Kovats, the ATB Austria Antriebstechnik co-owner and CEO, Christian Schmidt, and the head of ATB Thien and member of the ATB Managing Board, Erwin Fritsch, laid the foundation stone for the new technology centre. This development is planned to go hand-in-hand with further expansion of the ATB location in Vorarlberg, where the aim is to increase the size of the workforce at the local subsidiary from 90 to 160.

The location in Vorarlberg offers an ideal venue for the ATB Austria Antriebstechnik technology centre. Above all, this location in western Austria stands out due to its proximity to Germany, which remains ATB's most important market, as well as access to the sizeable flow of qualified specialists emerging from the numerous universities and advanced technical colleges located in the triangle formed by Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

ATB Thien gains importance as ATB Technologies

At the same time, the ATB Thien subsidiary, which is located in Rankweil and Hohenems and has been part of the ATB Group since 2003, has been renamed ATB Technologies. This change reflects the growing significance that R&D will enjoy within the ATB Group in future. As ATB Managing Board Chairman, Christian Schmidt, explains, the motivation behind the technology centre was as follows, *“In the wake of strong international expansion, the penetration of new markets and the intelligent expansion of our product range in the past two years, the current task is to bolster our development competence and to move into new areas.”*

As the Group innovation centre, the Vorarlberg ATB subsidiary was already entrusted with the development of innovative, special electric motors and drive solutions. This

concentration of R&D activities represents the systematic response of the ATB Group to the joint challenge posed by the ATB subsidiaries in Austria, Germany France, the UK, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Montenegro, to develop innovative drive concepts on an ongoing basis and thus to always be one step ahead of the competition. ATB Technologies designs and develops highly innovative, complex special motors including electronic control and in 2004 was involved in a series of nationally and internationally funded innovation projects as a development centre for electrical (electronic in German???) drive systems.

Entry into the previously unexploited automotive sector

Erwin Fritsch, the head of ATB Thien and member of the ATB Managing Board, is extremely pleased with the decision to build the new technology centre in Lustenau, *“We intend to invest increasingly in R&D, in order to secure the competitive lead established during recent years and to expand still further. Indeed, customised motor development should gain in importance within the ATB Group during 2005.”* Above all, the focus in future will be on developments for the automotive sector, which will mean an advance into an industrial sector, which up to now, has not been served by ATB.

The Chairman of the ATB Supervisory Board and co-owner, Mirko Kovats, is clearly proud of the rapid development of ATB Austria Antriebstechnik, which is under the majority ownership of A-TEC Industries AG, *“Since the start of our involvement, ATB has become a leading, international motor group. However, with headquarters in Spielberg/Styria and ATB Technologies in Lustenau, the company remains firmly rooted in Austria. Due to its immediate proximity to Germany and Switzerland, which are two neighbouring countries in which A-TEC Industries has a particularly strong presence, Vorarlberg constitutes an ideal location for the new ATB technology centre.”*

ATB Austria Antriebstechnik AG

ATB Austria Antriebstechnik AG, which has its headquarters in Spielberg, Austria, and is listed on the Vienna stock exchange, along with its subsidiaries ATB Antriebstechnik in Welzheim/Germany, ATB Motorentchnik in Nordenham/Germany, the THIEN Group in Rankweil/Vorarlberg/Austria, ATB BASTRO s.r.o. in the Czech Republic, ATB SELNI in France, ATB Morley in the UK and ATB Sever a.d. in Serbia and Montenegro, is a leading manufacturer of electrical drive systems for industrial purposes and machines. At present, ATB Austria Antriebstechnik AG has a workforce of around 4,000.

A-TEC Industries

A-TEC INDUSTRIES AG is a privately owned, international industrial group based in Vienna, which is a successful player in the fields of electrical motors, plant building, machine tool manufacture and mining. The Group currently employs a workforce of some 7,000 in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, the USA, Spain, Italy, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the UK, Serbia and Montenegro.

More information at the Internet addresses www.a-tecindustries.at and www.atb-motors.com

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