PRESS RELEASE

23/03/2018

**200 years of Getzner**

**The Getzner Group present their results for 2017 for the first time together**

**Buers/Bludenz. The Getzner Textil, Getzner Werkstoffe and holding company Getzner Mutter & Cie. are three companies operating in very different fields, yet united by their common roots. Turnover for Getzner Textil increased to 306 million euros (up 8.5%). Meanwhile turnover for Getzner Werkstoffe rose to more than 95 million euros (up 18.4%). On the bicentenary of Getzner’s foundation, the companies presented their annual results for 2017 at a press conference held in Buers on 23 March 2018 and gave a glimpse of the forthcoming anniversary celebrations.**

The tale of two internationally successful companies, Getzner Werkstoffe and Getzner Textil, brought together under Getzner, Mutter und Cie., the holding company founded in 1818, could hardly be more colourful. In 1980, Getzner Textil AG separated from Getzner, Mutter & Cie. - Western Austria’s first red dyeing factory - to become an independent company, while Getzner Werkstoffe has its origins in the production of imitation leather. Today, Getzner Textil is an internationally leading supplier of clothing damasks, fashion fabrics and technical textiles. Whilst, Getzner Werkstoffe is the world's leading specialist when it comes to vibration isolation and protection. At the press conference on 23 March 2018, representatives from all three organisations announced their results for the 2017 financial year and their joint plans for the Group’s bicentenary celebrations.

**2017: a successful year for Getzner Textil**

For Getzner Textil, 2017 was an extremely successful year: turnover for the textile group increased by 140% between 2013 and 2016; in 2017 it increased organically by a further 8.5% to 306 million euros. A number of great designers have been cooperating with the fabric manufacturer for many years in the field of “shirts and fashion fabrics”. The company has made a name for itself, particularly in African damasks which is used for traditional clothing in West Africa. A key milestone last year was the development of “Strategy 2021”. This strategy focuses on increasing the African damasks' turnover, consolidating shirts and fashion fabrics as well as establishing new and promising future business areas with technical textiles. Since 2011, several construction projects have also been the focus of a great deal of attention, such as those in the Bludenz area and subsidiary companies which will be completed in spring, as well as the expansion of the company’s own district heating system. In addition to existing consumers, the indoor pool Val Blu in Bludenz has also been connected to the system, resulting in a saving of 75% of the natural gas previously required for heating.

**Upturn and generation change for Getzner Textil**

“The company's progression to becoming a market leader in Africa damasks and the huge increase in sales and profits in recent years, is all thanks to the extraordinary commitment of our employees at all the sites. Our sincere thanks to you and your families. From an investment point of view, 2018 will be a quieter year, although the investments of recent years will be clearly reflected in a double-figure increase in sales and profits. “My retirement in spring 2018 will herald a generation change for the board that first began four years ago” according to CEO Josef Lampert, whose responsibilities will be assumed by Roland Comploj as CEO and Martin Frick as CFO.

**Getzner Werkstoffe: growth in all three business areas**

As a subsidiary of Getzner, Mutter & Cie., Getzner Werkstoffe also has its roots in textiles. With a turnover in excess of 95.2 million euros and growth of 18.4% in the business areas of rail, construction and industry, Getzner Werkstoffe can look back on 2017 as its most successful year since the company was established. Last year again saw the implementation of a number of high-profile reference projects: a luxury train from Kawasaki, new subway train sets in Sydney and vibration-absorbing carriage floor mountings made from fire-retardant polyurethane were introduced in the Indian cities of Kochi and Lucknow. In the city of Hamburg’s largest timber residence, currently a student residence, Sylodyn® strips from Getzner are reducing sound transmission to practically zero. Other notable projects included vibration protection for the Parisian cultural centre, La Seine Musicale, and a wind turbine on the Eiffel Tower. “Key innovations have enabled us to strengthen our technological leadership over the last year. In the area of architectural acoustics, we introduced the new acoustic floor mat portfolio in 2017 to counter impact noise in buildings. In the “bedding of buildings” application field, we extended the HRB HS product range for the highest load types in the smallest spaces, and in the field of rail, we developed an elastic baseplate pad for railway lines for particularly low temperatures,” summarised Jürgen Rainalter, Chief Executive Officer of Getzner Werkstoffe. Getzner Werkstoffe also honed its strategy in 2017: “we are starting 2018 with a more competitive and more efficient organisational structure in which our skills are grouped together more tightly with a flatter overall hierarchy,” explained Jürgen Rainalter.

**Joint activities to celebrate the bicentenary**

“This year’s anniversary reminds us, the holding company and the two subsidiaries, of our common roots. That thought brings us closer together. The key theme in this year of our bicentenary is “curiosity” as the force that both drives and connects us,” explained Georg Comploj, Chief Executive Officer of holding company, Getzner, Mutter & Cie. For Getzner Werkstoffe and Getzner Textil, long-term experience is a key criterion that sets them apart from their competitors - and they are not making it easy for others to imitate. As well as the various joint activities throughout this anniversary year and in addition to cultural events, new company films and the historic anniversary brochure, in September 2018 there will also be a joint gala evening and a family celebration for Getzner Group employees. “In autumn, we will also be inviting anyone with an interest in Vorarlberg, especially school classes, to a very special three-part exhibition. In the fully refurbished ‘Stadtvilla 38’, Getzner's original headquarters, there will be an art exhibition staged by Heidi Comploj and Michael Mittermayer, a historical exhibition by Manfred Getzner and an exhibition featuring the achievements of Getzner Werkstoffe and Getzner Textil,” explains Georg Comploj.

For further information on the bicentenary celebrations, please visit: www.200years.getzner.com

**Historical summary of “200 years of Getzner” (synopsis)**

1818 Christian Getzner, Franz Xaver Mutter and Andreas Gassner together establish “Getzner, Mutter & Cie.” The company employs 3000 home spinners in the Vorarlberg Oberland.

1819 Opening of the first red dyeing factory in Western Austria in the Lichtenstein Palace in Feldkirch. The company’s first mechanised spinning mill goes into operation at Lichtenstein Palace in Feldkirch.

1969 Founding of Getzner Chemie Ges.m.b.H. & Co – now Getzner Werkstoffe – as a subsidiary of Getzner, Mutter & Cie.

1976/77 Getzner-Chemie in Buers commences production of polyurethane (PUR) foam. Production of glass fibre reinforced plastics (GRP) and imitation leathers (“Getsyl”) comes to an end.

1980 Founding of Getzner Textil AG with its headquarters in Bludenz, Getzner, Mutter & Cie. assumes the responsibilities of a holding company.

2018 Getzner, Mutter & Cie., Getzner Werkstoffe and Getzner Textil celebrate 200 years of existence.

**Getzner Textil AG**

Getzner Textil AG is the leading manufacturer of African clothing damask for the sophisticated genre of Africa damask and numbers among the major suppliers of fashion fabrics for shirts and blouses, corporate fashion and technical textiles. Getzner Textil has played an active role in the textile industry since 1818. In 1980, the company split from Getzner, Mutter & Cie. to become an independent company.

Clothing damask from Getzner Textil, a company steeped in Vorarlberg tradition, is recognisable by its lustrous sheen. This property is unrivalled in this sector. Well-known designers have been working with the fabric manufacturer for decades. The fashion fabrics produced are colour-woven or piece-dyed cottons and blends. They are used to make a range of shirts and blouses - from the designer collection to workwear.

In the field of technical fabrics, the company supplies specially designed hardwearing fabrics for demanding applications. They are used to make products like hot air balloons, spinnakers on ocean-going yachts, seat upholstery in the automotive sector, hang gliders and stunt kites. These textiles that are subject to demanding technical requirements are developed and produced in central Europe.

Getzner Textil sells its products around the world, with West Africa being the main market for clothing damask. In addition to sites in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, the company is represented in more than 30 countries.

**Facts and figures – Getzner Textil AG**

Founded: 1980 (as a subsidiary of Getzner, Mutter & Cie)

Chief Executive Officer: Josef Lampert (CEO, Finance/Management)  
Rolf Gottmann (Board, Production/Technology)  
Roland Comploj (Board, Operations)  
Wolfgang Kunze (Management: Africa)  
Alexander Hofstadler (Management: fashion fabrics & technical textiles)  
Martin Frick (Management: Finance)

Employees: 1500 Getzner Textil Group, 960 Getzner Textil AG (in Vorarlberg)

2017 turnover: 306 million euros

Business areas: Africa clothing damask, fashion fabrics, technical textiles

Headquarters: Bludenz (AT)  
Locations: Nüziders (AT), Lustenau (AT), Bad Mitterndorf (AT), Gera (DE),

Bayreuth (DE), Russikon (CH)

Ratio of exports: 98%

**Getzner Werkstoffe GmbH**

Getzner Werkstoffe is the leading specialist in the field of vibration isolation and protection. The company was founded in 1969 as a subsidiary of Getzner, Mutter & Cie. Its solutions are based on the products Sylomer®, Sylodyn®, Sylodamp® and Isotop®, all of which were developed and manufactured at Getzner’s own facility. They are used in the rail, construction and industry sectors to reduce vibrations and noise, improve the service life of bedded components and minimise the need for maintenance and repairs on tracks, vehicles, structures and machines.

Getzner markets its vibration protection solutions around the world. Alongside its locations in Buers and in Germany, Getzner also has offices in China, France, India, Japan, Jordan and the USA. Its tightly-knit distribution network in Europe is complemented by its distribution partners in the USA, South America and the Far East. Partners in a total of 35 countries around the world distribute Getzner Werkstoffe products to every location. By reducing noise and vibrations, Getzner is making a valuable contribution towards enhancing the quality of living and working conditions.

**Facts and figures – Getzner Werkstoffe GmbH**

Founded: 1969 (as a subsidiary of Getzner, Mutter & Cie)

Chief Executive Officer: Juergen Rainalter

Employees: 420 (290 in Buers)

2017 turnover: 95.2 million euros

Business areas: Railway, construction, industry

Headquarters: Buers (AT)  
Locations: Beijing, Kunshan (CN), Munich, Berlin, Stuttgart (DE), Lyon (FR),   
 Pune (IN), Amman (JO), Tokyo (JP), Charlotte (US)

Ratio of exports: 94%

**Further information:**

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