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Press release

MOLL and METAIR GROUP announce strategic partnership

The medium-sized battery specialists MOLL, from Upper Franconia, and the listed METAIR GROUP announce their strategic co-operation. This partnership will enable MOLL to secure considerable additional production capacities in Europe and Turkey. "In addition to its partnership with the Chinese CHAOWEI Group, MOLL is now taking the next step towards becoming producers of high-performance starter lead-acid batteries, with the capacity to deliver all over the world", explains Gertrud Moll-Möhrstedt, managing partner of Akkumulatorenfabrik MOLL GmbH + Co. KG. Over the next few years, the company will continue to invest six figure sums into its site at Bad Staffelstein, which shall be expanded as both a research and development centre and production site.

Thanks to the successful development of its modern EFB starter battery for start-stop applications, the Upper Franconian family business MOLL has achieved recognition on both a national and international scale. With this battery, which has been specially designed to meet the high demands of use in start-stop vehicles, MOLL is actively contributing to a sustainable reduction in the fuel consumption and CO2 emissions of modern vehicles.

For decades, the batteries produced by the successful medium-sized automotive supplier have been effectively starting vehicles of many notable German car manufacturers, in particular the VW Group with the Volkswagen, Audi, Porsche, Skoda and Seat brands, and DAIMLER. Commitment to the highest product quality and permanent innovation, to their employees and comprehensive environmental protection, as well as to their roots in Bad Staffelstein have been the company's trademark and key to success for over 70 years.



Since its establishment in 1945 by Peter J. Moll, the company has grown to become one of the most renowned and technologically advanced suppliers to the automotive industry - a growth which can be attributed to extensive developments and a vast array of product innovations. The high quality of the products has been acknowledged by customers via numerous accolades and is regularly confirmed by independent test institutes. MOLL's customers appreciate its talent for innovation and the quality of the products, often expressing their wish to receive guidance from the company during their own international expansion ventures, and to have MOLL products delivered to them the world over.

In the course of the partnership with the Chinese CHAOWEI Group, which was launched in 2014, almost 15m euros have been invested in a considerable expansion of the production capacities of the Bad Staffelstein site; in addition, some 100 new jobs have been created. The partnership is also yielding positive results in China itself. With an initial capacity of approximately 4m units per year, the new battery factory has assumed responsibility for deliveries to MOLL customers in China.

The unrelenting high demand for MOLL batteries in Germany and Europe cannot be met fully by Bad Staffelstein, despite doubling its capacities. In light of this, management hereby announces that, in the METAIR GROUP (www.metair.co.za), it has found a partner who supports the strategic goals set by the MOLL family company and with whom it can expand its European market. In the future MOLL will be able to utilise the production capacities of the METAIR GROUP in Romania (ROMBAT) and Turkey (MUTLU), transferring the necessary expertise in return. Both companies are united by a strong commitment to the highest product quality, target-oriented research and continuous product development, as well as the highest possible degree of customer orientation.

METAIR is one of the leading automotive suppliers listed on the Johannesburg stock exchange; it is also a producer of starter, lead-acid and lithium-ion batteries. The METAIR Group headquarters are located in Johannesburg (South Africa), serving an international portfolio of businesses that produce and market energy storage products and vehicle components in nearly 50 countries. METAIR was founded in 1948 and began by delivering vehicle components to an OEM in South Africa. METAIR is now an international supplier to the automotive industry with numerous OEM clients, a broad range of aftermarket and non-automotive products and production facilities in several countries, including in Europe. In the next five years, METAIR aims to expand across five continents.

METAIR is interested in the long-term safeguarding and expansion of the Bad Staffelstein site as both a research and development centre and production facility; as a MOLL minority shareholder, it also supports the further expansion of the production capacities for modern starter batteries by means of a



significant increase in capital. These investments are made to meet the demands of potential new customers and, as a result, secure current jobs in the region, as well as creating new ones.

Through this strategic partnership, MOLL will soon be able to considerably increase the production volumes available to its customers and take another important step on the path to becoming a "global supplier".

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