

## **SGL Kümpers moves to new production facility in Rheine**

- Dynamic demand for composites from the automotive industry
- New location offers a state-of-the-art work environment

*Wiesbaden, February 13, 2015.* SGL Kümpers GmbH & Co. KG continues to benefit from the rapidly increasing demand for composites from the automotive industry. To meet this demand the joint venture, founded in 2007 by SGL Group – The Carbon Company and Kümpers GmbH, has relocated from its development site in Rheine-Gellendorf to a new production facility in the Rheine-Nord industrial park in Salzbergen-Holsterfeld in Westphalia.

In addition to the existing fabric and braiding machines, this new production facility – situated close to Münster – is equipped with a wide range of customized, highly automated production lines. Continuous production up to seven days a week is planned at the new location, with full production capacity expected in the second half of 2015.

The facility in Rheine will be used primarily for the production of carbon-fiber preforms (semifinished products) for the automotive and aviation industry. Another highly innovative product is a glass-fiber fabric, which is already used in automotive series production in the form of leaf springs for the Volvo XC 90 as well as in the commercial vehicle sector. Rheine is also home to the SGL Kümpers development department, which plans and develops innovative technologies for series production in vehicle construction. Key rationale for the decision to relocate to this site included not only the state-of-the-art premises but also, and above all, the excellent logistics links.

Franz-Jürgen Kümpers, Managing Director of SGL Kümpers: "Thanks to optimized work processes and a state-of-the-art work environment for our highly skilled employees, this new production facility is perfect for our company."

Dynamic growth set to continue

SGL Kümpers is one of Europe's leading companies for the textile processing of carbon and glass fibers in the field of fabrics and braidings for the wind, automotive and aviation industry and, as a specialist in the field of high-performance textiles, is among the pioneers in a new era of lightweight construction for the automotive industry. Given the ongoing high demand, particularly from the automotive sector, the dynamic growth is set to continue over the next few years, too.

At SGL Kümpers, around 150 employees at the Lathen and Rheine-Nord plants manufacture fabrics and braidings made either entirely from carbon and glass fibers or from mixed structures. The sales volume had been increased continuously over the past years. From 2006 to 2013 sales increased from €10 million to almost €40 million per year. In 2014 the dynamic growth trend further continued.

#### About SGL Group – The Carbon Company

SGL Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of carbon-based products and materials. It has a comprehensive portfolio ranging from carbon and graphite products to carbon fibers and composites. SGL Group's core competencies are its expertise in high-temperature technology as well as its applications and engineering know-how gained over many years. These competencies enable the Company to make full use of its broad material base. SGL Group's carbon-based materials combine several unique properties such as very good electrical and thermal conductivity, heat and corrosion resistance as well as high mechanical strength combined with low weight. Due to industrialization in the growth regions of Asia and Latin America and increased substitution of traditional with innovative materials, there is a growing demand for SGL Group's high-performance materials and products. Products from SGL Group are used predominantly in the steel, aluminum, automotive and chemical industries as well as in the semiconductor, solar and LED sectors and in lithium-ion batteries. Carbon-based materials and products are also being used increasingly in the wind power, aerospace and defense industries.

**With 42 production sites in Europe, North America and Asia as well as a service network covering more than 100 countries, SGL Group is a company with a global presence. In 2013, the Company's workforce of around 6,300 employees generated sales of €1,477 million. The Company's head office is located in Wiesbaden.**

*Further information on SGL Group can be found in SGL Group's newsroom at [www.sglgroup.com/press](http://www.sglgroup.com/press) or at [www.sglgroup.com](http://www.sglgroup.com).*

#### **Important note:**

This press release may contain forward-looking statements based on the information currently available to us and on our current projections and assumptions. By nature, forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, as a consequence of which actual developments and results can deviate significantly from these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not to be understood as guarantees. Rather, future developments and results depend on a number of factors; they entail various risks and unanticipated circumstances and are based on assumptions which may prove to be inaccurate. These risks and uncertainties include, for example, unforeseeable changes in political, economic, legal, and business conditions, particularly relating to our main customer industries, such as electric steel production, to the competitive environment, to interest rate and exchange rate fluctuations, to technological developments, and to other risks and unanticipated circumstances. Other risks that in our opinion may arise include price developments, unexpected developments connected with acquisitions and subsidiaries, and unforeseen risks associated with ongoing cost savings programs. SGL Group does not intend or assume any responsibility to revise or otherwise update these forward-looking statements.

Contact Corporate Communications:

Telephone +49 611 6029 100 / Fax +49 611 6029 101

E-mail: [press@sglgroup.com](mailto:press@sglgroup.com) / [www.sglgroup.com](http://www.sglgroup.com)