

Press release

ALTANA expands its portfolio in industrial 3D printing with strategic acquisitions

- Expansion of ALTANA's ECKART division with innovative solutions for metal-based 3D printing
- Acquisition of the business of the internationally leading TLS Technik GmbH & Co. Spezialpulver KG with high-performance metal powders for 3D printing
- Acquisition of the British specialist AMT for alloy development in 3D printing and its patented special alloy A20X for lightweight components

Wesel/Hartenstein/Bitterfeld, September 14, 2020 – The specialty chemicals group ALTANA is acquiring the business of TLS Technik GmbH & Co. Spezialpulver KG, an internationally leading manufacturer of metal powders for 3D printing, and thus strategically expanding its ECKART division. "By acquiring the TLS business, we are expanding our portfolio in 3D printing for industrial additive manufacturing and positioning ourselves in a technology market of the future," says Martin Babilas, CEO of ALTANA AG. "With this step we are continuing to implement ALTANA's strategy of generating value-creating growth through targeted acquisitions, even in difficult economic times."

TLS, which is based in Bitterfeld, Germany, and has 25 years of experience, is regarded as one of the world's leading specialists in the production of high-quality metal powders for industrial 3D printing.



"TLS' expertise in the production of metal powders and alloys for metallic 3D printing complements ECKART's strengths as a specialist in the atomization of metals," says Dr. Wolfgang Schütt, head of ALTANA's ECKART Division. "We are also strengthening ourselves in a targeted manner for functional applications." For example, ECKART offers solutions for corrosion protection, products for the manufacture of aerated concrete, and fuels for space travel. In the course of the acquisition, ECKART will take over the production facility in Bitterfeld and around 40 employees. The transaction is subject to the approval of the antitrust authorities and to other customary closing conditions, and is expected to take place in the fourth quarter of 2020.

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Page

1/2

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In addition, ALTANA announced the acquisition of the British company Aluminium Materials Technologies Ltd. (AMT). Besides others, the company developed the patented special alloy A20X for 3D printing, setting new standards in strength and weight. The technologically highly innovative special alloy enables the manufacturing of significantly lighter components with outstanding mechanical properties.

“AMT and its A20X alloy complement TLS’ capabilities, enabling us to offer users even more high-performance materials in the future, including in the aerospace industry, a key market for metallic 3D printing,” says Dr. Schütt.

3D printing permits decentralized, industrial production. The technology is revolutionizing the industrial value chain by making global supply chains more time and cost efficient. With the economic challenges posed by Covid-19, the importance of 3D printing will continue to grow.

In the future, ECKART will work with TLS and AMT experts to optimize and develop metal powders for 3D printing, thus opening up new areas of application. In doing so, ECKART is building on its core competencies: decades of expertise in materials production, efficient research and development, and access to international markets.

About ECKART:

The ECKART Group, a company of ALTANA AG, is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of effect pigments. With around 1,750 employees worldwide, the group of companies develops, produces, and distributes metallic effect and pearlescent pigments in powder, paste, and pellet form as well as concentrates, dispersions, and printing inks. ECKART products are used in the paint and printing industry, the plastics and aerated concrete sectors, and in cosmetic products. ECKART has a presence in over 70 countries. Comprehensive information about the company and its products can be found on the Internet at www.eckart.net

About ALTANA:

ALTANA is a global leader in true specialty chemicals. The Group offers innovative, environmentally compatible solutions for coating manufacturers, paint and plastics processors, the printing and packaging industries, the cosmetics sector and the electrical and electronics industry. The product range includes additives, special coatings and adhesives, effect pigments, sealants and compounds, impregnating resins and varnishes, and testing and measuring instruments. ALTANA’s four divisions, BYK, ECKART, ELANTAS, and ACTEGA, all occupy a leading position in their target markets with respect to quality, product solution expertise, innovation and service.

Headquartered in Wesel, Germany, the ALTANA Group has 47 production facilities and 65 service and research laboratories worldwide. Throughout the Group more than 6,500 people work to ensure the worldwide success of ALTANA. In 2019, ALTANA achieved sales of more than €2.2 billion. About 7 percent of sales is invested in research and development every year. Its high earning power and high growth rate make ALTANA one of the most innovative, fastest growing, and profitable chemical companies in the world.

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