

*Purchase of a site for its second Chinese facility finalised in June*

## *Wemhöner to finish reorganising production and assembly by mid-2019*

**Wemhöner Surface Technologies GmbH & Co. KG intends to finish reorganising production and assembly activities at its headquarters in Herford, Germany, by the middle of 2019.**

The company built two new halls, which were combined with existing halls to create a larger complex, across the road from its current plant during the first half of 2018. The addition of the new halls increased its manufacturing area by about 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> from 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>. In future Wemhöner intends to house its parts production assets there. As part of this reorganisation, the firm will also update its machinery park. In a first phase, a new CNC milling machine that can machine parts weighing up to 50 tonnes was installed in the new halls. The machinery used to date is limited to parts weighing up to 15 t. The start-up process for the new milling machine has now begun and is set to be completed by September. At the same time, the firm will move machinery used to make parts at its headquarters across the road and/or replace it with larger, modern technology. Once this project has been completed, the 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> headquarters will primarily be used to assemble and pre-commission presses and surface lines made in Herford. Wemhöner still lists the cost of the entire reorganisation project at some €12m, breaking down into about €4m to build the new halls and €8m for machinery. The new milling machine is the single-largest investment with a budget of some €4m.

The company had built the halls across the street that are now used for the expansion project back in the 1980s before renting them to other companies. Wemhöner took over the three existing halls three years ago after the last renter moved out and has since used the space to carry out assembly work.

Wemhöner is reorganising production and assembly operations and making the rela-

*Wemhöner expanded the production space at its Herford plant to more than 19,000 m<sup>2</sup>. (Photo credit: EUWID)*



ted investments primarily in order to optimise its manufacturing processes. There are no plans to increase capacity, even though the provision of extra assembly space will allow the firm to shorten lead times in its main business of short-cycle presses, which are relatively long at about 18 months. Wemhöner aims to guarantee lead times of less than a year again. The company believes that rising lead times for short-term presses in recent years have been caused by factors including relatively brisk investment activity in a number of markets, the shift in market share among press producers especially for large units and the trend towards more complex and more heavily automated technology. These presses can achieve higher pressing power and thus deeper structures, press synchronised with the decor and higher clock rates. Investments in individual short-

cycle press projects have jumped to over €10m with these additional requirements. Wemhöner will also improve its ability to make heavy and complex short-cycle presses with the investments that it has made in replacing and increasing its parts production capacity.

Wemhöner has also made progress with its longstanding plans to build a second Chinese facility over the past few weeks. In June, the firm completed its purchase of a 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> piece of industrial land in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, which was agreed in September 2017. Construction will likely begin in spring 2019. Manufacturing is set to commence by mid-2020. In a first phase, the new complex doing business as Wemhöner Changzhou Technologies Co. Ltd. will have printing and lacquering capacity. □