

### **OKS Otto Knauf GmbH now belongs to the SCHÄFER WERKE Group** **In future, OKS and EMW will be operating on the market together as sister companies**

**Neunkirchen, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023. SCHÄFER Werke GmbH & Co. KG, headquartered in Neunkirchen in Germany's Siegerland region, has acquired OKS Otto Knauf GmbH in Iserlohn from Fidelium Partners. Both parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price.**

OKS Otto Knauf GmbH is an independently operating steel service company with over 100 employees. Founded in 1952, the business, with its rich tradition, gradually developed into a modern steel service centre. With its high-performance slitting lines, it processes several hundred tons of steel annually into the required forms and precise dimensions, achieving a turnover of approximately €95 million.

After its acquisition by Fidelium from the international operator STEMCOR in 2017, OKS was able to reposition itself successfully as an SME in Germany's renowned "Mittelstand" and return to profitable growth. After the OKS takeover, Fidelium introduced an extensive series of successful optimisation measures. These included cost optimisation programmes and efficient use of operating capital, improvements in production and systems, as well as the successful implementation of product verification and business development measures.

The 100% family-owned SCHÄFER WERKE Group operates globally with diversified business areas: EMW Steel Service Centre, perforated sheets, container systems and IBCs, as well as IT and interior systems. The work of all these divisions is based on high-quality fine steel sheet and the processing of this material is one of the group's traditional core competencies.

With this forward-looking investment, SCHÄFER is strengthening its EMW business unit - a steel service centre that operates independently of the plant. EMW will benefit from this acquisition and is pursuing its own long-term goals of continuous, healthy growth as well as the expansion of capacities. Above all, however, the takeover will expand the service portfolio: OKS has an extensive range of machinery, as well as a highly skilled and experienced workforce. Steels in thicknesses from 0.25 - 16 mm can be processed here and slit strips in stainless steel and aluminium are also produced, in addition to carbon steels. For EMW, the additional storage capacities are also very welcome. While the coil warehouse holds 60,000 tonnes, the finished material warehouse can store 15,000 tonnes of slit strip.

# PRESS RELEASE



As one of Europe's largest independent steel service centres, EMW supplies coils, slit strip, cut-to-size and circular blanks to the steel processing industry. At its two locations, in Neunkirchen (North Rhine-Westphalia) and Treuen (Saxony), EMW has more than 220,000 tonnes of thin steel sheet permanently in stock. This means almost all standard market grades are constantly available. A highly efficient organisation for transport logistics is also one of the company's particular specialities.

## Image and caption:

Fig. 1: OKS\_Bild-1\_(c)\_EMW-Stahl-Service-Center.jpg

Caption: Managing Directors of the SCHÄFER WERKE Group Michael Mockenhaupt (right) and Marcus Düber (left) and Dr Daniel Ebert (centre), Managing Director of Fidelium, after the successful conclusion of the contract.

## About Fidelium Partners ([www.fidelium-partners.com/en/](http://www.fidelium-partners.com/en/)):

Fidelium is an internationally oriented investor and manages a major equity fund backed by a number of German business families. Long-term assets totalling EUR 103 million are available for acquisitions, follow-on investments, and add-ons. Unlike most financial investors, we invest in companies that are currently facing significant operational challenges. Stable cash flows and growth are our goal, but are rarely in place when we start. Our objective is to improve and develop companies sustainably. In doing so, we focus on acquiring and developing holdings with significant value enhancement potential that can benefit from our operational commitment.

## About EMW Stahl-Service-Center ([www.emw-stahlservice.de/en/](http://www.emw-stahlservice.de/en/)):

As one of the largest independent steel service centres in Europe, EMW supplies coils, slit strip, cut-to-size and circular blanks to the steel processing industry. At its two locations, in Neunkirchen (North Rhine-Westphalia) and Treuen (Saxony), EMW has more than 220,000 tonnes of sheet steel permanently in stock. This means almost all standard market grades are constantly available: standard and special grades, mainly hot-dip and electrolytically galvanised, cold-rolled, hot-rolled and hot-dip aluminised.

On four cut-to-length lines and two sheet cutting lines, EMW processes metal sheet in thicknesses of 0.4 to 6 millimetres with coil weights of up to 32 tons. Among the company's particular specialities are a comprehensive package of automotive and industrial grades, high-tensile steels and enamelling grades, as well as a highly efficient organisation for transport logistics.

At EMW, certification according to DIN ISO 9001:2008, IATF 16949:2016 and ISO 14001:2004 ensures that quality, process reliability and environmental protection are guaranteed. EMW is a division of the internationally successful SCHÄFER WERKE group with its head office in Neunkirchen.

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