Press release

Automation specialist IEF to strengthen INDUS

Bergisch Gladbach, 31 July 2015 – INDUS Holding AG is seizing an attractive acquisition opportunity in the automation technology sector by acquiring a 75% interest in IEF-Werner GmbH, Furtwangen. INDUS is looking for selective investments in this line of industry. Other target markets of the company include infrastructure and logistics, energy and environment as well as measurement and control technology.

The product portfolio of IEF-Werner essentially covers five segments: transfer systems, semiconductors and wheel gauging machines, components as well as micro assembly. The transfer systems segment comprises all kinds of palletising systems (palletisers). The latter are made to customers‘ specifications and are characterised by high efficiency and reliability. The semiconductors segment essentially comprises special plants used to produce ABS systems. The wheel gauging machines developed and produced by IEF are primarily used by the large wheel manufacturers and represent the de facto industry standard. The components segment comprises all kinds of positioning systems, with the main emphasis on linear drives. The range of products is complemented by proprietary control technology.

Micro assembly is the company’s youngest product segment. It comprises the new development of fully modular micro-assembly cells and the new aiPRESS product family. The micro-assembly cells are currently used in the new watch assembly lines of a major Swiss watchmaker. What makes them special is the control concept, which no longer provides for central control of the machine. Instead, the working sequence required for a product is encoded on the workpiece carrier itself, which, in turn, autonomously controls the individual assembly cells. This makes the system freely scalable and configurable. aiPRESS are highly precise “automatic intelligent” presses.

“The company’s high development intensity and its new products in the field of high-precision servo presses and micro assembly are very remarkable. IEF thus fits in ideally into our portfolio of innovative and future-proof mid-sized companies,” said Jürgen Abromeit, CEO of INDUS Holding AG. The company’s former sole owner, Manfred Bär, is also very satisfied. “I was looking for a new owner who not only understands the potential of IEF but who also supports the company’s dynamic growth.“ He will sell his majority interest to INDUS as part of a succession scheme but will assist in the transition as managing partner until at least 2017. IER currently employs some 130 people and projects sales revenues of roughly EUR 22 million for 2015.

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