



Press release

SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH AG starts selling process for specific distribution units

- **Board of directors starts selling process for specific distribution units in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria**
- **Restructuring programme will continue to be implemented according to plan**

Emmenbrücke, Switzerland, April 22, 2014 – In its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH AG, a global market leader in special steel (such as tool steel, stainless steel, and engineering steel) listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (SIX: STLN), has decided to start a selling process for specific distribution units in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria. The final resolution will be taken after evaluation of all offers.

The affected distribution units belong to the *Sales & Services* division, follow a diverging business model and focus on selling third party products. Therefore they do no longer fit into the strategic direction of the SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH Group, which has been elaborated in 2013; the future focus of the Group lies on production and sales of own-mill products. In 2013, these activities achieved revenues of EUR 600 million and employed around 1 000 employees. In parallel, the restructuring programme which has been initiated in 2012 and significantly expanded in 2013 will continue to be implemented according to plan. It mainly incorporates a reorganisation of the sales area, process optimisations as well as further personnel reductions and the closing of some sites.

With their comprehensive product range the affected distribution units belong to the market leading distributors of special long steel. The extensive product offering is enhanced by extended prefabrication services as well as competent technical support. Thereby the distribution units earned an excellent reputation in their long-standing history.

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About SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH

Today, the SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH Group is one of the world's leading providers of customised solutions in the special long steel products business. A global name in tool steel and stainless long steel, the Group is one of three largest companies in Europe for alloy and high-alloy special and engineering steel. With around 10 000 employees at its own production and distribution companies in over 35 countries across five continents, the Company supports and supplies customers wherever they operate. Besides the comprehensive Production and Sales & Services portfolio, customers benefit from the Company's technological expertise, consistent high quality worldwide and in-depth knowledge of local markets.

Forward-looking statement

Information in this release may involve guidance, expectations, beliefs, plans, intentions or strategies regarding the future. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. All forward-looking statements included in this release are based on information available to SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH AG as of the date of this release, and we assume no duty to update any such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements in this release are not guarantees of future performance and actual results could differ materially from our current expectations. Numerous factors could cause or contribute to such differences. Factors that could affect the Company's forward-looking statements include, among other things: national and global GDP trends; changes in regulation relevant to the steel industry; intense competition in the markets in which the Company operates; integration of acquired companies; changes in the Company's ability to attract and retain qualified internal and external personnel or clients; the potential impact of disruptions related to IT; any adverse developments in existing commercial relationships, disputes or legal and tax proceedings.

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