

Press release

Goldschmidt Thermit Group continues growth strategy / Worldwide leader in joint welding and THERMIT® business systematically expanding its position

- = 13 per cent sales increase worldwide to 158 million euros
- = Strong growth in Asia, Russia and Europe
- = New structure and portfolio expansion are paying off

Leipzig, July 19, 2018: The [Goldschmidt Thermit Group](#), based in Leipzig, is successfully continuing its international growth strategy. In the 2017 financial year, the worldwide leader in the area of joint welding, servicing and maintenance of rail systems and for THERMIT® business increased its sales by 13 per cent to 158 million euros. The number of employees in the 23 companies worldwide, including three locations in Germany, rose to 980 employees. The global market leader benefits from strategic investments in digitization and from consistent international expansion, especially in Asia, Russia and Europe. The group expects significant growth in the current financial year as well.

"In an intensely competitive environment, we have further expanded our position as global market leader. Worldwide investments are made in new railways. The existing track infrastructure also requires tailored solutions for maintenance and upkeep. We have achieved a dominant position in this market in many countries around the world", explains Dr. Hans-Jürgen Munding, CEO of the Goldschmidt Thermit Group. "In doing so, we rely on THERMIT® and innovation "made in Germany". We are developing the digital high-tech devices of the future at our Technology Innovation Center in Leipzig."

The successful digitization strategy is key in this success. The company is investing heavily in the digital networking, control and monitoring of equipment, processes and production results for use on construction sites, thereby providing its customers with a major advantage in terms of quality and productivity. The Goldschmidt Thermit Group is one of the major companies in the railway infrastructure area to consistently focus on the digital construction site. High-tech solutions from Industry 4.0 are used, which deliver maximum precision, reliability and efficiency. The GOLDSCHMIDT DIGITAL APP gives customers access to all of the company's mobile digital applications.

The Goldschmidt Thermit Group is currently developing the cloud-based *Data Acquisition for Rail Infrastructure* (DARI) database, which provides seamless, automated documentation of welding and measuring work as well as customer-specific evaluation of various data. In addition, sophisticated digital measurement technology is available for intelligent and predictive maintenance of rails and switches.

"Modern standards for quality, safety, transparency and efficiency place ever-increasing demands on construction and maintenance of modern railways. We are among the pioneers in the digitization of work processes. We offer modern and efficient solutions that help customers in making their processes safer and more efficient and simplifying their entire workflow" says Munding. "Our research and development are geared towards exploiting the opportunities offered by digitization for our customers. Industry 4.0 is a reality for us. It increases customer satisfaction and enables efficient and cost-effective work."

In addition to organic growth, the Group continues to focus on external growth through acquisitions and joint ventures, primarily to enhance its future product portfolio. Last year, for example, it acquired the Polish measurement technology specialist GRAW. In February 2016, the Goldschmidt Thermit Group had already founded a subsidiary, Goldschmidt Thermit Polska Sp. z o.o., in the Polish city of Toruń to strengthen its business operations in Poland. Later in 2016, SRS Sjölanders, the Swedish manufacturer of road-rail vehicles and an important supplier of maintenance vehicles, joined the group.

"Worldwide we focus on businesses that allow us to expand our portfolio meaningfully and offer our customers a comprehensive package for predictive maintenance of their rail networks. In addition, we gain experienced specialists and valuable knowledge", explains Mundinger. "We have brought the acquisitions of recent years to completion and integrated them successfully into our group. Further acquisitions are planned. Our profitable growth has created an excellent basis for strategic investment."

About the Goldschmidt Thermit Group

The Goldschmidt Thermit Group is a worldwide leader in the area of joint welding and the servicing and maintenance of rail systems. The roots of the company go back to the invention of the Thermit® process by Prof. Hans Goldschmidt at the end of the 19th century. Today the Goldschmidt Thermit Group consists of 23 medium-sized individual companies, which serve the international growth market for rail infrastructure. The company has 980 employees and maintains an international network of production and service locations. In 2017, the group achieved a consolidated turnover of 158 million euros.

Further information is available at www.goldschmidt-thermit.com.

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