



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **St. Nicholas Day coffee event at the Arntz Optibelt Group**

**Höxter, 4 December 2019. At the Arntz Optibelt Group's traditional St. Nicholas Day coffee event for former employees, this year's jubilee colleagues were honoured.**

After guests have fortified themselves with coffee and cake, Reinhold Mühlbeyer, Chairman of the Group's Management Board, looked back at the events of the past business year at the Arntz Optibelt Group, supported by press releases from 2019.

With a turnover of € 282.8 million, the Arntz Optibelt Group increased its turnover in 2018 by +3.1% compared to the previous year. Mühlbeyer also provided an insight into the development of sales over recent years, with a focus on the 2019 financial year. He will explain that the difficult economic environment has also left its mark on Optibelt. The various crises in the world (including the trade dispute between the USA and China and the USA and Europe) and their effects on the global economy have led to a reduction in demand for Optibelt products. Brexit has also been a contributing factor.

The Group has been active in Britain for more than 50 years with its own sales company. Optibelt UK employs approximately 15 people in sales, administration and logistics/warehousing. Various processes in procurement, order processing, IT, dispatch, etc. were examined early on, based on best possible estimates, in order to be prepared for the upcoming changes.

### **Start of training at Optibelt in 2019**

In times of scarcity of skilled workers and the increasing challenges of digitisation, Optibelt continues to rely on training its own workforce in the future. This year, the company clearly demonstrated its commitment, particularly in the fields of engineering and information technology. At the start of the 2019 training year, seven sandwich degree students began a practice-integrated degree course at Optibelt in Höxter. This represents a substantial increase in the number of degree places compared to the four new students who started in the previous year. The variety of subjects was also expanded. In addition to degrees in Industrial Engineering (BEng) and Business Information Technology (BSc), degree courses in Production Engineering (BEng) and, for the first time, Digital Logistics (BEng) were offered. In addition, the Arntz Optibelt Group will also continue its strong commitment to offering classic commercial, logistical and technical apprenticeships in the future.

### **Arntz Optibelt Group awarded second prize at the BOW Special Award**

Every two years, BOW e. V. (East Westphalia-Lippe Educational Association for Industry and Commerce) awards the BOW prize for the best human resources development programme as well as a special prize for young personnel development officers in East Westphalia-Lippe.

The BOW special prize, awarded by the BOW e. V. for young personnel development officers, honours young and creative personnel developers for their innovative ideas and their implementation in the company. The Arntz Optibelt Group applied for the special prize with its personnel developer Carmen Tetzlaff and was awarded second place with the project "Escape Room - Emil Arntz 's secret recipe". In this project, the founding history and products of the Höxter-based globally active corporate group are conveyed in an exciting hands-on way.

### **Optibelt subsidiary Tecnamic in new company location**

Approximately eleven months after the ground-breaking ceremony, the Optibelt subsidiary Tecnamic GmbH moved from Arnsberg to Werl in May 2019. Approximately nine million euros were invested in the new company headquarters on the approximately 19,000 m² site. Initially, some 50 people will be employed at the new location.

### **New mixing room at Höxter site**

The "new mixing room" project is an investment that runs into millions of euros and is a milestone for the future orientation of the Höxter location. With this investment, the Group will increase its competitiveness in the face of future market and product requirements and the associated high technical quality expected of the compounds. It is scheduled to be completed in December, with commissioning to take place in January 2020.

### **Honouring long-standing employees**

In 2019, a total of 20 employees will celebrate their anniversary at the Arntz Optibelt Group in Höxter. Five of them look back on **40 years of service** at the company headquarters: Andreas Timmermann, Lothar Lohmann, Klaus Neitz, Michael Vogt and Hans-Werner Börner. Eleven employees who joined the Group in 1994 look back on **a quarter of a century** of service: Karsten Gross, Anatoli Telizki, Giuseppe Imbesi, Mehemed Adilovic, Iwan Grenz, Andreas Lawrenz, Norbert Ofiera, Andreas Bodora, Alexander Sterle, Dieter Rampe and Alexander Grothe. Four further employees have been working at the Arntz Optibelt Group headquarters for **ten years**: Thomas Cholodnyj, Andreas Klaffner, Maren Drücke and Lina Nielsen.

**About Optibelt**

The Arntz Optibelt Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-performance drive belts and develops sophisticated drive solutions for use in mechanical engineering, the automotive industry, the agricultural machinery sector, the household appliance industry and the medical sector. The family-run company controls eight production sites in six countries from its headquarters in Höxter and maintains its own logistics and sales centres in Europe, North and South America, Southeast Asia and New Zealand. Worldwide around 2500 employees provide the best possible service, excellent customer proximity and the highest quality and safety standards.

[www.optibelt.com](http://www.optibelt.com)

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Pictures:

"Jubilees of the Arntz Optibelt Group at the Höxter site 2019 "; Photo credits: Arntz Optibelt Gruppe