



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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

**Höxter, 6 December 2022. At the Arntz Optibelt Group's traditional St. Nicholas coffee event for former employees, the company honoured colleagues who were celebrating long-service anniversaries this year.**

The Arntz Optibelt Group's traditional St. Nicholas coffee event took place again this year after a two-year break due to the coronavirus pandemic. After everyone had fortified themselves with coffee and cake, Reinhold Mühlbeyer, CEO, talked the guests through the business year 2022 and explained the future orientation of the Arntz Optibelt Group.

The turnover of some 298 million euros that the group achieved for sales in 2021 was about 18 percent up on the prior year's revenues of 2020 and represented the highest ever turnover in the company's 150-year history. Bottlenecks in the supply of materials and delays in the logistics chain experienced the year before have so far been counteracted successfully by Optibelt on account of its broad base of suppliers, markets and regions. At the same time however, the entire organisation is experiencing the economic challenges of the Russia-Ukraine war, the continuing supply chain bottlenecks and the spiralling prices of both raw materials and energy. A turnover of over 300 million euros is anticipated for 2022.

To counteract the energy crisis, the Arntz Optibelt Group plans not only to erect solar parks at its global company sites, but also to make further investments to promote energy security and to implement additional energy saving measures.

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

This year again, the Arntz Optibelt Group was able to honour numerous long-serving employees from all divisions of the company for their dedication. In 2022, a total of 61 employees are celebrating their company anniversary at the Arntz Optibelt Group in Höxter. Five of them can look back at an impressive 40 years of service with the company: Dagmar Pallentin, Detlev Kirchhoff, Wilfried Busse, Wolfgang Petsch and Helmut Frank. A total of 34

employees can look back at 25 years with the company, while a further 22 employees have been with the company in Höxter for ten years.

### **Optibelt goes green**

As a visible sign of commitment to sustainability, the Arntz Optibelt Group is planning in a first step to develop a new solar park at the Höxter site comprising over 3,000 modules. On completion, this solar park will generate an average of 1.33 million kilowatt hours and will save some 628 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Most of the electricity generated will be used directly on site at the company's headquarters in Höxter. Globally, many other Arntz Optibelt Group sites have their own solar park.

### **Apprenticeship start in 2022**

The training of its own skilled personnel and managers is one of the facets that stands out in the long corporate history of Optibelt. The number of apprenticeship places was significantly increased again this year, thus further enhancing the range of apprenticeships on offer with new and interesting vocations. Starting early in August, the new apprenticeship year 2022 began with 16 apprentices and work-study students at the Höxter site. In addition to the wide range of apprenticeships on offer, the corporate group offers exciting job opportunities in a great variety of specialist fields. For 2023, a further expansion of the apprenticeship opportunities on offer is planned.

### **About Optibelt**

The Arntz Optibelt Group is one of the leading global manufacturers of high-performance drive belts and develops sophisticated drive and product solutions for use in mechanical engineering, the automotive industry, agricultural machinery, household appliances 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 and North and South America, as well as in Asia, North Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Worldwide, more than 2400 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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