

Press release

BHS tabletop AG is gearing up for the future

Detailed planning for modern quick fire technology is to be completed by the end of April / New managers take up their work / Express commitment to production in Germany

Selb, January 10th, 2008. Successful opening to the year: BHS tabletop AG, the world market leader for professional porcelain for the hotel and gastronomy industry as well as for large-scale catering, based in Selb, has started detailed planning for installation of modern quick fire technology. At the end of last year, the company announced that it would be investing € 7 m in new kiln technology at the Schönwald location over the next two years – in addition to the € 4 m which the company spends on its production facilities each year in any case. Furthermore, new managers took up their appointments in January 2008. BHS tabletop AG has expanded its managing cadre in order to allow the new generation to gain experience in their tasks as early as possible, and has appointed internal candidates to the newly created top positions. Since January 2009, Christian Strootmann, 44, and Rainer Schwarzmeier, 49, have occupied newly created positions as deputy Board members. Christian Strootmann's most recent previous appointment was as chief representative and the Executive Director for Marketing and Domestic Sales. He has now taken over the Sales division, whilst Rainer Schwarzmeier, the former authorised signatory and Executive Director for Production, now leads the Production division.

New technology permits greater flexibility and capacity

By investing in Schönwald, BHS tabletop AG is expressly demonstrating its commitment to production in Germany. The purchase of new quick fire technology will significantly improve flexibility and capacity. The system is planned to enter service in mid-2009 following completion of the planning phase and the complicated installation work. Furthermore, the company is looking for

this to deliver a further improvement in quality as well as significant savings in energy and kiln furniture. As recently as the year 2000, BHS tabletop AG invested € 10 m in expanding the Weiden production facility into Europe's most modern production plant for flatware.

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