



# Press Release

## **The Berner Group intends to continue growing rapidly in the chemicals business and is investing heavily**

- **Berner subsidiary Caramba purchases land in Duisburg**
- **Securing long-term employment for some 70 people**
- **Competence expansion as a manufacturer of innovative products**

**Künzelsau/Duisburg, April 6, 2017. The Berner Group is setting the course for long-term growth in its Chemicals division. The subsidiary Caramba has acquired an industrial building site at the production location Duisburg, strengthening its competence as a manufacturer of innovative, high-tech solutions with special chemical products for various industrial segments. The Berner Group has secured around 70 jobs at the location while creating the necessary prerequisites for future growth.**

The Chemicals division is currently the fastest growing and most profitable in the group. "Our strategy is to sustainably ensure profitable growth in the long term. The perfect production conditions that we utilize in Duisburg are part of this success story. That is why we are purchasing the industrial property," says Berner Group CEO Christian Berner.

Today, Caramba (acquired by the Berner Group in 2007) no longer merely stands for a wide range of products for private use, but above all, for high-tech specialty chemicals that make a huge contribution to

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the cost-effectiveness of production processes in all areas of industry. Research, development and production are conducted in three locations in Germany – in Duisburg, Bremen and Bad Kreuznach. As the internationally active Caramba Chemicals Group, the company is part of the Berner Group, a German family-owned business. The Caramba Chemicals Group employs some 1,000 people in eight European countries. With the leading brands Ambratec, KENT and Caramba, chemical specialty products, services and accessories for cleaning, care, protection and repair are developed, produced and marketed in three business areas.

“Caramba is the industry’s ideal partner for effective and economically viable surface finishing in the manufacturing industry when it comes to chemical cleaning, modification and the protection of surfaces of all kinds,” says Executive Director Dr. Bernd Weyershausen.

The application fields for chemical and technical solutions cover a wide range of industrial sectors, from wafer processing in the solar industry through display cleaning, including copy protection in smartphone production, to gas turbine cleaning. “On the one hand, we rely on our longstanding manufacturing expertise for the production of specialty chemicals, and, on the other, on our in-depth knowledge and proficiency regarding the industrial processes,” explains Dr. Bernd Weyershausen.

## **The Berner Group**

The Berner Group is a family-run European commercial enterprise. Our vision is: “We keep the world together and moving.” This means

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we are the central B2B trading partner for all materials in the maintenance, repair, and production segments for our customers in the building, mobility, and industry sectors. With more than four channels we create an integrated omni-channel purchasing experience for our customers. In the steel and C materials as well as chemicals segments we are also an innovative manufacturer. We are represented in over 25 countries for our customers with more than 230,000 items and 9,000 employees.

## **The Caramba Group**

The Caramba brand has existed since 1903 and is officially one of Germany's "Brands of the Century". The success story of the chemicals specialist began with the invention of a spray oil containing graphite, which dissolved rust, while also lubricating and protecting. Its production began in 1948 in Duisburg. Today, Caramba is one of the leading manufacturers of innovative specialty chemical products for cleaning processes and surface protection. Caramba offers customized solutions for industry, car wash facilities, gas stations and retailers, and is regarded as Europe's leading specialist for customer brands in the automotive aftermarket. The Caramba Chemicals Group employs a staff of about 1,000 in eight European countries. The chemicals group is divided into three business segments – with the leading brands Ambrattec, KENT and Caramba – and is part of the Berner Group.