



Media release
Heerbrugg, 20 January 2017

SFS strengthens its operations in Switzerland

SFS is investing approximately CHF 36 million through mid-2018 to increase capacity and productivity at major sites in Switzerland: Logistics infrastructure is being modernized and heat-treating capacity is being expanded.

Modern and efficient logistics infrastructure allows SFS unimarket (Distribution & Logistics segment) to deliver products to customers quickly, easily and reliably. With central warehouses in Rebstein, Rotkreuz and Emmenbrücke, SFS unimarket can fill orders for screws, architectural hardware and tools from customers throughout Switzerland very quickly. Up to 70,000 items are kept in stock at the central warehouse in Rebstein, which has about approximately 18,000 m² of warehouse space and is one of the most modern logistics centers in Europe. SFS is planning to increase its storage capacity by more than 4,500m² by mid-2018 so it can supply its customers with an even wider range of goods. Warehouse logistics infrastructure will also be upgraded and expanded as part of this project.

Increasing capacity by upgrading infrastructure

Logistics infrastructure is also being upgraded in Heerbrugg. In a three-stage project scheduled for completion in the spring of 2018, the site's logistics facilities will be expanded and their efficiency and productivity improved, and the warehouse management system will be updated with state-of-the-art technology. These investments in the amount of approximately CHF 6 million will optimize the flow of goods and materials, increase capacity and shorten response times. They will also create a better framework for Industry 4.0 solutions, allowing, for example, SFS' warehouse to be networked with its customers' operations.

New building secures future growth

SFS is also investing approximately CHF 20 million in its heat-treating operations in Heerbrugg. The construction of a new building and installation of additional heat-treating systems will ensure the smooth ramp-up of the recent project wins and the realization of future growth. Production floor space will increase by approximately 1,800m² upon completion of the new building on the north side of the current facility. SFS expects operations at the new heat-treating facility to commence in the summer of 2017.

These important capacity and productivity-enhancing projects will keep the Swiss operating sites clearly focused on projects and processes that entail high levels of innovation, high capital intensity and a high degree of automation and thus further strengthen their competitive profile.

About SFS Group

SFS is a global market leader for mechanical fastening systems and precision formed components. SFS Group is organized into three business segments Engineered Components, Fastening Systems und Distribution & Logistics which represent the three business models. In the **Engineered Components** segment, SFS partners with customers to develop and manufacture customer-specific precision formed components, fastening solutions and assemblies. The segment operates in the Automotive, Electronics and Industrial divisions and sells its products under the SFS intec (Automotive, Industrial) and Unisteel (Electronics) brands. In the **Fastening Systems** segment, consisting of the Construction and the Riveting divisions, SFS develops, manufactures and markets application-specific mechanical fastening systems under the SFS intec (Construction) and GESIPA (Riveting) brands. In the **Distribution & Logistics** segment with the SFS unimarket brand, SFS is a leading provider of fasteners, tools and architectural hardware as well as innovative logistics solutions in Switzerland. SFS Group is a global player with manufacturing sites and distribution companies at more than 70 locations in 25 countries around the world. Sales in business year 2015 amounted to CHF 1.376 bn and the work force numbered approximately 8,300.

For further information visit www.sfs.biz

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