

Press Release

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PVA TePla AG expands crystal growing business by acquiring Floatzone operations from Haldor Topsoe

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Asslar, 08 June 2004: To boost its activities in the Crystal Growing Systems division, PVA TePla AG has signed an asset deal to acquire the Floatzone Equipment business unit from Haldor Topsoe.

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Haldor Topsoe, an internationally operating Danish company with more than 1600 employees, is withdrawing from its profitable floatzone activities in order to concentrate on its core business. For PVA TePla AG, the takeover of this plant and process technology provides an ideal addition that complements the present range of products and services in the field of silicon crystal growing systems. The division can thus expand on the leading position it has already established on the market.

Approximately 5-10% of silicon crystals produced worldwide for power electronics applications are made with the floatzone (Fz) process. Fz crystals are extremely pure. This means that they are primarily suitable for use in high-performance electronic components, such as thyristors and diodes. Silicon Fz wafers are also becoming increasingly widespread in high-performance solar cells because, despite their relatively high price, they achieve by far the best levels of efficiency.

“This additional technology means we are able, as the world’s only producer of large-scale industrial plant, to supply any manufacturing process for silicon crystals”, enthuses Martin Gier, the Management Board member responsible for the Crystal Growing Systems and Plasma Systems divisions, referring to the expanded range of products and services now available.

About PVA TePla

For decades already, PVA TePla AG has been an established supplier of plant and systems for eco-friendly production and processing of high-quality industrial materials. As a vacuum specialist for high-temperature and plasma treatment, the company is a leading player on the world market for hard-metal sintering plant, crystal growing facilities and plant for surface activation using plasma. With its systems and services, PVA TePla supports key processes in industrial companies, particularly in the metal, ceramics, plastics, semiconductor, hard metals and electrical/electronics industries, as well as in research and development institutes centred on materials technologies. The company also supplies innovative components and solutions for purifying freshwater, wastewater and surfaces by means of UV-C radiation. Shares in the company have been traded on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange since 21 June 1999; the company has been listed in the Prime Standard segment (ISIN DE0007461006, Reuters TPEG) since 1 January 2003.

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