



Press release

Ipsen launches its own sales and production site in Japan

Kleve, December 2008 – Ipsen International Holdings is significantly expanding its presence in the Asian market with a new facility in Japan. The world market leader for machines and systems that automatically harden metal components has announced its purchase of the heat-treating furnace branch of the Japanese company, Seavac.

Japan counts as one of the most important future markets for Ipsen International Holdings. The company is using its extensive experience in Japan, gained through license agreements for more than 20 years, to create a solid basis for sales and production within this market.

The acquisition of the industrial furnace construction branch of Seavac in the Nagoya/Kyoto region is a key part of Ipsen's international strategic alignment in Asia. The world market leader in the field of heat treating furnaces will thereby achieve direct access to national and international Japanese customers. The high quality, innovative Ipsen products and technologies, offer the perfect solution for demanding, technologically-advanced Japanese companies.

In a first step, the newest vacuum furnace with associated process and control technology as well as software will be produced and marketed for the Japanese market at this location. Atmospheric chamber furnaces and continuous systems will follow in a second step. Over the coming years, a simultaneous expansion of sales offices and service centers is planned in Japan and other strategically important Asian countries.

"We are glad that we will continue to work with the highly-qualified and experienced personnel of the former heat-treatment furnaces branch of Seavac. With President Masayoshi Shimizu as the manager of this site, it is certain that we will be able to expand our presence in this market," notes Dr. Hendrik Grobler, CEO of the Ipsen Group. Ipsen Group employees will consistently support our Japanese personnel in the expansion. Engaged in Japan as Chairman of the Board is H. Peter Lankes, and as Senior Advisor is Ludger Oimann.

Ipsen has specialized for more than 60 years in the development and construction of high-quality industrial furnaces and systems for heat treating assemblies and components. Like no other corporate group, the world market leader has advanced the development of heat treatment with innovative technologies. Ipsen is always developing new ways to provide steel with better properties. The company has production facilities in Europe, America and Asia and sales representatives in 34 countries. Its primary customers include the automobile industry, the aerospace industry as well as tool and machine manufacturers.

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