

AT&S: Clear Signal to Klagenfurt

Single-sided printed circuit boards made exclusively in Klagenfurt in future

Klagenfurt (February 6, 2004): AT&S CEO Willi Dörflinger made a clear commitment to the Klagenfurt location today. All work for producing single-sided printed circuit boards is being transferred to Carinthia. Deliveries from Hungary have been discontinued and the Fehring production is also being relocated to Klagenfurt.

This decision is another indication of how AT&S is betting on diversification in the individual plants. "Klagenfurt plays a very important role in our group. Here, we are concentrating fully on producing single-sided printed circuit boards. We are applying thick-copper technology to focus in particular on the automotive and industrial sectors. The market is there and the chances are great," says Dörflinger.

Delivery of specific production phases from Hungary was also discontinued at the beginning of the year. "We transferred all tools and equipment to Klagenfurt during those weeks. Now, we are manufacturing everything under one roof; the lower wage costs in Hungary will be more than made up by greater automation, better quality and savings in logistics," explains Dörflinger. The manufacture of single-sided printed circuit boards is also being relocated from Fehring to Klagenfurt, so that the Fehring works will concentrate on flexible and through-holed printed circuit boards. "Klagenfurt will be the sole competence centre for single-sided printed circuit boards."

The number of Klagenfurt employees will increase from 98 to 150 in the course of a year. The initial steps have already been taken, says Dörflinger, but there is still a lot to do. "The coming year will be a decisive one for Klagenfurt. We still must increase speed and improve performance. Currently, our biggest problem is the weak American dollar, which is placing us at a great competitive disadvantage with our rivals in Asia. We will not completely attain our highly set goals this year, but we also want to show profits in Klagenfurt in the coming fiscal year (which begins on April 1st)." Last year, about a millions euros were invested in technologically outfitting the plant, and this year the sum should increase to at least 1.2 million euros.

AT&S took over 77% of the printed circuit board section of the insolvent AIK per February 2002. The Unternehmenszentrum Klagenfurt Gründer und Innovationspark Besitzgesellschaft mbH – Klagenfurt Founding and Innovation Park Ownership Ltd. – holding company has the remaining 23%.

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