Press release

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Bekaert announces footprint and portfolio adjustments BBRG

Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group (BBRG) to close manufacturing plant in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, and improve the business portfolio of the European rope activities

Bekaert has decided to consolidate the European ropes manufacturing platform in the UK and phase out the production activities in Gelsenkirchen by the end of 2023. The business portfolio of the European rope activities will further be improved by exiting lower-margin market segments and focusing on the segments with growth perspectives and higher value creation potential.

Gelsenkirchen, Germany

The competitive position of the Gelsenkirchen plant has been under pressure and the current business level does no longer provide the ability to generate a financially sustainable performance. The decision to close the loss-making plant will affect 77 employees.

UK operations

All European steel rope manufacturing activities will be centralized in the Doncaster and Newcastle production sites. The set-up will be redesigned to ensure long-term competitiveness by better leveraging efficiencies and by improving the business portfolio.

The management regrets the personal consequences of the restructuring decisions and will diligently evaluate the options to mitigate the social impact for the affected employees.

About Bekaert and its division Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group

Bekaert (bekaert.com) is a world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coating technologies. We pursue to be the preferred supplier for our products and solutions by continuously delivering superior value to our customers worldwide. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with more than 27 000 employees worldwide, headquarters in Belgium and € 5.9 billion in combined revenue in 2021. Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group - division of Bekaert - is the world's premier supplier of mission-critical advanced cords and ropes. As a leading innovator, developer and producer of the best performing ropes and advanced cords globally, the Group provides superior value solutions to the oil & gas, wind energy, mining, crane, elevator, and other industrial sectors.

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