



Media release

SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH decided to finish open-ended selling process for distribution activities

- **Board of Directors decided to finish the open-ended selling process for distribution activities in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria**
- **Restructuring programme will continue to be implemented, reorganisation is progressing**

Emmenbrücke, 15 December 2014 – Today, the Board of Directors of SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH AG, a global market leader in special steel (such as tool steel, stainless steel, and engineering steel) listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (SIX: STLN) decided to finish the open-ended selling process for distribution activities in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria. From the Board of Directors' perspective the offered purchase price for the distribution activities did not reflect the value of the affected distribution activities. In the interest of all shareholders, Board of Directors and Management Board therefore decided that keeping the activities in the Group is more value accretive than selling them in the current environment.

The operations of the affected distribution activities have been improving significantly over the current year as a result of the restructuring programme. The company will focus on further improvements in efficiency and productivity. On the back of that programme the Board of Directors and the Management Board expect significant further potential for improvement.

In future the affected distribution activities will be continued as a separate business unit under the roof of SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH.

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About SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH

Today, the SCHMOLZ + BICKENBACH Group is one of the world's leading providers of customised solutions in the special long steel products business. A global name in tool steel and stainless long steel, the Group is one of the two largest companies in Europe for alloy and high-alloy special and engineering steel. With around 10 000 employees at its own production and distribution companies in 38 countries across five continents, the Company supports and supplies customers wherever they operate. Besides a comprehensive Production and Sales & Services portfolio, customers benefit from the Company's technological expertise, consistent high quality worldwide and in-depth knowledge of local markets.

Forward-looking statements

Information in this release may contain forwardlooking statements, including presentations of developments, plans, intentions, assumptions, expectations, beliefs and potential impacts as well as descriptions of future events, income, results, situations or outlook. They are based on the Company's current expectations, beliefs and assumptions, which are subject to uncertainty and may differ materially from the current facts, situation, impact or developments.

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