

Pursuing strategic focus: Leoni AG sells Fiber Optics and j-plasma units to Weinert Industries AG

- Leoni AG is consistently pursuing its focus on wiring systems for the automotive and commercial vehicle industry
- Consortium led by Leoni manager will continue to develop the business strategically and independently and is committed to securing jobs in Germany and the U.S. in the long term

Nuremberg/Foeritztal, 10 December 2021 – Leoni AG consistently pursues its strategic focus in order to leverage the market potential in the automotive and commercial vehicle industries in the coming years from a strengthened position: the international automotive supplier is selling its subsidiaries Leoni Fiber Optics GmbH, Leoni Fiber Optics, Inc. and j-plasma GmbH to a consortium of buyers around Weinert Industries AG. The transaction is expected to be closed in the first quarter of 2022.

The portfolio of Leoni Fiber Optics and j-plasma includes special fibers in the areas of optical metrology and industrial data transmission. As is well known, Leoni AG intends to strategically focus on consolidating its leading position as a supplier and service provider of wiring systems for passenger cars and commercial vehicles – for example in the growing business of alternative powertrains. Against this backdrop, Leoni has already sold several non-automotive units in 2021 (Business Group Industrial Solutions, Leoni Schweiz AG and the data communication and compound units of Leoni Kerpen GmbH).

The sale of Leoni Fiber Optics and j-plasma is carried out as a management buy-out supported by investors: Weinert Industries AG consists of Andreas Weinert, Thüringer Industriebeteiligungs GmbH & Co. KG and Mittelständische Beteiligungsgesellschaft Thüringen mbH. Andreas Weinert had founded part of the now sold units himself in 2001 and currently serves as Director Technology Management of Leoni Business Unit Fiber Optics. He will head the company, which will operate under the name Weinert Group, with around 300 employees

at six locations in Germany and one in the U.S. The sold activities generated sales of around € 50 million in fiscal year 2020.

Leoni consistently pursues its strategic focus

“We have always been committed to finding investors for Leoni’s WCS units who can strategically develop the business. With the consortium around Andreas Weinert, we are now handing over Leoni Fiber Optics GmbH, Leoni Fiber Optics, Inc. and j-plasma GmbH to a buyer who knows the products, services and good positioning in the market like no other,” explained Aldo Kamper, CEO of Leoni AG.

“One of our main concerns is to particularly secure jobs in Germany and in the U.S. – and to do so in the long term. The employees with their know-how, motivation and inventive spirit, are among the decisive success factors for our joint future success,” said Andreas Weinert on behalf of the consortium of buyers, seeing a win-win situation as well. The manager with 30 years of experience in the industry stated that the Weinert Group will be one of the leading manufacturers in specialty fiber optics.

The closing of the transaction is still subject to the agreement of various boards as well as customary closing conditions, including merger control, and is expected in the first quarter of 2022.

 *Related illustration material can be downloaded next to this release at <https://www.leoni.com/en/press/releases/details/optics-fiber/>*

About the Leoni Group

Leoni is a global provider of products and solutions for energy and data management in the automotive sector and other industries. The value chain encompasses wires, optical fibers, standardised cables and special cables through to custom-developed wiring systems and related components as well as services. As an innovation partner and solutions provider, Leoni supports its customers with pronounced development and systems expertise. The market-listed group of companies employs about 100,000 people in 30 countries and generated consolidated sales of EUR 4.1 billion in 2020.



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