

HTI High Tech Industries AG in St. Marien (Austria) has successfully secured financing for its growth strategy. An ICS PARTNERS and METRIC CAPITAL PARTNERS consortium has provided fresh capital for expansion planned in the lightweight construction segment and will actively oversee HTI's continued growth. Additional capital is available for acquisitions.

Zug (Switzerland) / Essen (Germany), 13 March 2014 – ICS PARTNERS GmbH (ICS) specialises in acquiring and operating companies experiencing exceptional circumstances, and on handling complex business transactions. The ICS team comprises experts with proven investment and transaction experience and practitioners with industry know-how. ICS focuses on the automotive industry. ICS Partners and Metric Capital Partners LLP (MCP) have created a financing consortium and will provide HTI with some € 26 million of fresh capital. At the same time, equities and liabilities will be restructured resulting in a substantial strengthening of HTI's equity capital base.

Peter Glatzmeier, HTI's CEO, said, "The successful entry of MCP / ICS as investors enables us to now purposefully pursue our course and, based on our excellent technical prowess and our product skills, actively and determinedly operate in the market. Especially our surface coating mastery will set us apart and enable us to offer our clients high-quality individual solutions and products." Jörg Gregel, ICS operating partner and designated HTI CEO, pointed to investments that were made in the high-finish paint-spray line. He and his team had overseen the installation and commissioning while the transaction was still being seen through. "This new HTI paint shop is one of the most modern facilities in all of Europe and enables HTI to offer its clients coated surfaces of the very highest quality." The successful conclusion of financing also puts an end to HTI's past financial woes. Gregel thanked HTI clients and suppliers in the run-up to planned sales meetings, "We should like to especially thank HTI's clients, particularly the leading automotive OEMs, for always supporting the firm. Specifically BMW, by assigning HTI highly demanding tasks, confirmed the company's skills and abilities and sustainability and thus greatly spurred on employees' motivation and their will to deliver."

HTI managed to successfully conclude the on-boarding of investors, a process eyed with great doubt by many observers given the very complex beginnings. ICS/MCP were able to build a viable path connecting the varied interests of all those involved. Both David Scheurl, an MCP principal, and Dr Ingo Zemke, ICS founding partner and MD, said, "In this transaction, our industry and finance structuring know-how were key. Without the willingness displayed by Austrian banks and their constructive readiness to negotiate a solution for HTI, this transaction would never have taken off. For HTI and its employees we are very grateful for the agreement reached now."

The ICS/MCP investment aims to strengthen and significantly expand the company's skills in lightweight construction and interior design. This includes pushing thin-wall technology in aluminium pressure die casting, accelerating the expansion in plastics engineering of multi component injection moulding, in-mould decoration, or surface lacquer proficiency, and promoting the development of complex kinematics parts. HTI is ready to accept new orders and further relocation business. The extended management's strategic plans include the immediate expansion of non-automotive activities to incorporate the aircraft construction segment already in existence.

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About ICS Partners GmbH

ICS PARTNERS GmbH is a specialised and independent investment and portfolio management company wholly owned by its partners. ICS focuses on industry concepts, complex transactions, and upper-*mittelstand* restructurings from € 10m upwards. The ICS team comprises experts with proven investment and transaction expertise and practitioners with industry know-how and great restructuring experience. All team members exhibit a profound sense for numbers and employ a hands-on approach based on their entrepreneurial background and management experience. ICS is an active investor with a long-term orientation and aiming to increase company productivity. This includes growing equity by ploughing back profits, limiting the use of financing by way of credits, or selling material assets. Flexibility, speed, and reliability characterise the way ICS works. www.icspartners.net

About HTI HIGH TECH INDUSTRIES AG

HTI High Tech Industries AG is headquartered in St. Marien near Neuhofen in Austria. HTI is an internationally active technology company specialising in lightweight engineering and focusing on aluminium pressure die-casting and plastics injection moulding. HTI employs some 800 staff at four plants in Austria and Slovakia. HIT produces sophisticated (composite) parts and components for the automotive and aviation industries. HTI is a sought-after partner in development and its clients include renowned brands like Airbus, Audi, BMW, Boeing, Daimler, Jaguar, MAN, Porsche, Volvo, and VW. www.hti-ag.at

About METRIC CAPITAL PARTNERS

METRIC CAPITAL PARTNERS (MCP) is an experienced European investor investing in *mittelstand* companies experiencing exceptional situations. At present, MCP is involved in 11 firms. MCP's main investors are European and international sovereign wealth funds, family and university foundations, and European asset management companies focused on the long term. www.metric-capital.com