

Heinze Group seeks investor for HERO Galvanotechnik

Following insolvency at the beginning of 2022, HERO Galvanotechnik GmbH in Bad Salzuflen is up for sale. The specialist for electroplated product series with glossy or matte surfaces commissioned a new plastic electroplating plant in 2015 – one of the most modern and environmentally friendly in Europe. It is offered at a price appropriate to the situation.

Contract electroplating HERO has been electroplating technical, decorative, interior and exterior parts for the highest demands from various industries, especially the automotive industry, since 1973.

In the new, state-of-the-art plant, plastic parts of various types and dimensions are coated in three-shift operation. The processes or surfaces include, for example, chrome and nickel in high-gloss, various matte shades, titanium-chrome, nickel satilume/pearl gloss, microporous and micro-cracked as well as selective electroplating for exteriors and interiors.

In the future, chrome and nickel end coatings in high gloss as well as in various matte shades from chrome(III) processes will also be possible, as well as dark chrome and chrome(VI)-free pretreatment as soon as a production-ready process is available on the market.

Only high-quality components are installed in the 95-meter-long, 13-meter-wide and 6.5-meter-high plant: Electroplating equipment from Kroes, rectifiers from MUNK, dryers from Harter, exhaust air technology from AIRTEC Mueku, refrigeration equipment from L+R, ...

It also has an innovative energy concept: a combination of combined heat and power plant and gas condensing boilers as well as heat recovery from exhaust air are used to supply heat.

Exclusively water-guided heating systems and power supply via copper rails - without cables - ensure optimum fire protection.

Thanks to chrome evaporators for the recovery of chrome acid and cooling of the chrome baths, heat protection jackets around the heated baths, three- to four-stage cascade systems, frequency-controlled fabric movements and pumps, strict separation of the various wastewater streams, and filter paper shredders, the processes are particularly resource-efficient.

HERO also has an in-house wet-chemical and dry-physical laboratory with equipment for analyzing bath parameters, material and layer

thicknesses, as well as climatic chambers and corrosion test chambers for long-term tests.

HERO Galvanotechnik GmbH belongs to the Heinze Group, which consists of 24 merged individual companies. Several subsidiaries are affected by the insolvency, in addition to HERO, Heinze Gruppe GmbH, Heinze Verwaltung GmbH, Heinze Gruppe Grundbesitz GmbH & Co. KG, Heinze-Kunststofftechnik GmbH & Co. KG, HeiForm GmbH and Krallmann Kunststoffverarbeitung GmbH. This is due to external circumstances such as the semiconductor crisis, which has led to declines in production at automotive companies such as Porsche, BMW and Mercedes – important customers for Heinze and HERO respectively – and to sudden order stoppages.

For HERO, the AG Bielefeld opened insolvency proceedings as a separate transaction on January 1, 2022. However, operations at HERO will continue with reduced capacities, and production is secured with the current workforce of around 100 employees until the end of June. Heinze remains the largest customer for contract electroplating.

Interested parties should contact the insolvency administrator, lawyer and specialist in insolvency law Stephan Höltershinken from the law firm Höltershinken & Kollegen in Minden (www.sh-inso.de).