

## Press release

### **From Europe to Brazil: leading suppliers to the Automotive and Industrial sectors form an alliance**

*Scanzorosciate, 2 September 2016*

The GSI Group has recently entered into an agreement with the Brazil division of the multinational company Batz. This union will allow GSI and Batz to be seen in the future as a single manufacturing entity and leader in Latin America, able to serve markets in a complete and competitive manner.

The proximity of the Brazilian facilities of the two companies and the widespread coverage of their offices throughout the world provide a solid basis for current and potential customers in the automotive sector and in the segments of agricultural, industrial and commercial vehicles.

The partnership will unite the two companies' well-established skills in the areas of moulding, coating and assembly, providing an example of profitable commercial collaboration between multinationals working within the same market. In the future, the two companies will develop new products within the sector of composite materials, which will jointly involve their advanced and complementary technologies.

The new alliance, from its 4 facilities in Sete Lagoas, Curitiba and Horizontina, will have important manufacturing characteristics, in the areas of both moulding and coating, that are unique to South America: four compression presses, one of which of 4,000 tonnes, and three newly constructed coating plants.

#### **Global System International SpA**

Global System International SpA manufactures by compression moulding, coats and assembles parts made of composite and thermoplastic materials for the sectors of agricultural and earth-moving machines and industrial and commercial vehicles, for the automotive industry and for electrical and design segments, employing advanced technologies such as SMC, GMT, D-LFT, LWRT.

GSI was founded in 2002 as a spin-off company of the multinational Lonza Composites, from whom it subsequently acquired its customer portfolio and moulding facility in Scanzorosciate (BG), which became its main headquarters.

The growth of the company was such that in 14 years it had 11 facilities dispersed throughout Europe, Brazil and China and approximately 400 employees around the world.

The company's vision is to be present with manufacturing facilities directly within the market of its customers, supplying a turnkey service with products ready for installation, which ties in directly with the production process.

#### **Global System International SpA**

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## **Batz Group**

BATZ was founded in 1963 and from the very beginning became specialized in the production of tooling for Stamping Dies. In the early eighties, the company began focusing on a second activity: the manufacture of Automotive Systems, and from this new business a process of globalization began in the late nineties.

Since 2005, the company has introduced a programme of product diversification and today is well established in the automotive sector and in new activities linked to sustainability and renewable energy. In 2010, BATZ expanded its technological knowledge of reinforced composites, focusing on the use of new materials and technologies for reducing the weight of vehicles and therefore CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The BATZ Group has its headquarters in Igorre (North Spain, near Bilbao) where its management offices are located and where its principal engineering capabilities/design activities are centralized. With fourteen manufacturing plants, six in the Basque Country and eight in Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, China, Mexico and Brazil, the BATZ Group is strategically positioned to serve the global market.

Almost 90% of the group's business is in the automotive sector. It works directly with the world's leading manufacturers, providing solutions for projects that are marketed throughout the world. Currently the BATZ Group is a global and diversified organization. Some figures: last year, 2015, it had a total turnover of €228M and a workforce of 1,600 people worldwide. In 2020, the turnover is predicted to be €330M and the workforce 2,000 people. Total investments touched €50M.