



Press release – OETI - Institute for Ecology, Technology and Innovation – 25 September 2017

Testing services provider OETI turns 50, celebrates and expands

On 25 September 1967, the Austrian Carpet Institute Association holds its first meeting. Fifty years later – on 25 September 2017 – the former “carpet research institute” has changed into a successful, modern testing services institute for OEKO-TEX®, flooring technology, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and has its own innovation department.

OETI – undergoing change

Since 1967 “ÖTI – Institut für Ökologie, Technik und Innovation GmbH (LLC)” has undergone continual change: From its early years as „carpet researcher” in 1967, to merging with the Austrian Fibre Research Institute and being renamed to Austrian Textile Research Institute in 1978, to co-founding the OEKO-TEX® Association in 1992 and to changing the company status to LLC in 2009.

In 2013, OETI becomes a subsidiary of Swiss-based TESTEX AG with its own management: Mr Robert Löcker.

Expansion

An important cornerstone of OETI's corporate strategy is the expansion of representative satellite offices. In addition to its headquarters in Vienna, OETI has seven other locations: in Egypt, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Turkey, Moldova, Italy, and Iran. Additional branch offices are planned.

“Key foreign markets are important growth drivers“, explains Managing Director Robert Löcker. “The branch offices’ revenue has doubled in three years from 2014 to 2017 and we want to continue our success story in the coming years. Our export rate is above 70% already.”, so Löcker further.

“In the next five years we want to further double the foreign branches’ revenue and OETI wants to be recognised in all South-eastern and Eastern European and Arabic countries as customer oriented test services provider with the highest level of expertise.

Today, OETI employs about 50 staff. Together with the Swiss parent company “TESTEX AG”, OETI even has a transcontinental network of 22 branches.

In addition, the four business units – ecology, flooring technology, PPE and innovation generate a solid double-digit EBIT margin, which is the financial basis for further expansion activities.

Reason to celebrate!

On 25 September 2017, OETI celebrates its fiftieth birthday with invited guests – such as customers, employees and their families, TESTEX CEO Serge Rolle, members of the TESTEX administrative board and representatives of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

The official ceremony kicks off at 10 am. Innovation's business unit manager Brigitta Colbert, who has been with OETI for 36 years, presents OETI's historic development. The keynote speaker is Georg Dieners – OEKO-TEX® General Secretary. He talks about OETI's contribution to the global success story of the OEKO-TEX® Association, of which OETI is a co-founder. Thomas Isler, Vice president of the board of TESTEX AG concludes the official part.

During the day, visitors are able to join guided tours through the mechanical and chemical/analytical laboratories.

Where are we headed? Looking forward to the next fifty years!

"We know that the market for our services will change dramatically over the next fifty years due to technological and social factors. In addition, the textile and flooring industry is at the beginning of a long-term production conversion and consumer behaviour is drastically changing. In order to successfully celebrate the 100th anniversary, OETI will be very flexible with those services that will continue to help both consumers and industry in the future, and wherever this is needed - locally.", concludes Robert Löcker.

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