

Press Release

Isosport merges production in Austria

- Location in Eisenstadt to be expanded, Hall to be closed -

Eisenstadt, January 9th, 2017. Isosport, the Austrian plastics solution specialist, is repositioning itself and concentrates its activities in the sectors sport and films on its location in Eisenstadt. Production in Eisenstadt will be expanded in the course of 2017, while the plant in Hall/Tyrol will be closed. Today Isosport has therefore filed its plan to terminate 48 employment relationships in Tyrol with the regional job centre AMS.

In return 30 new jobs will be established in Eisenstadt. Managing director Karl Mad: "Isosport wants to strengthen its focus on growing segments. Thanks to the expansion of production in Eisenstadt 30 new jobs will be created. We are looking for qualified employees in the areas of extrusion and design, but will prefer existing employees from Hall."

Challenging market in the ski and snowboard industry

In its four locations in Austria, Slovenia and Hungary Isosport currently employs more than 400 people. Up to 48 of them are affected by the closing of the plant in Hall/Tyrol. In close cooperation with the works council Isosport is preparing a comprehensive redundancy scheme. To avoid social hardship cases there will be an additional financial compensation for such cases. Furthermore Isosport will establish a Job Center in order to provide support in job search, applications and preparation for job interviews.

Restructuring of the production has been driven by a declining market in the ski and snowboard industry for many years: Therefore production is merged and relocated to Eisenstadt. Managing director Mad: "The market has significantly changed since the 1980ies. The number of globally sold ski and snowboards declined from ten million pairs of ski in the end of the 1980ies to approx. three million. We cannot ignore this trend."

Focus on new segments

With this repositioning process, Isosport wants to secure its future production in Austria. Mad: "This step is painful but a singular event. We continue to employ about 400 people and intend to create more jobs in our growth segments in the near future."

One of these segments is the production of high performance films which have been in the focus of Isosport R&D for two years now. Mad: "The interest from industry is great and we see multiple new applications. We had a good start and have identified this segment as the one with the biggest potential for Isosport."

Also the production in Slovenia with currently 160 employees, focused on composites for automotive- and food industries, is on a successful course. Mad concluding: "We will continue to invest in Slovenia and create new jobs."

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About Isosport:

Isosport is a qualified supplier of high-tech films, sandwich-composite panels and fiber-enforced epoxy composites. In the segment of plastics-composites for the ski- and snowboard-industry Isosport is world market leader. The company has 400 employees in Austria, Slovenia and Hungary and generated a revenue of 82 million Euro in 2015. Isosport is part of the Austrian Constantia-Industries-group.