

Styrolution's headquarters will be located in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. The JV has sites in Germany, Belgium, France, Sweden, Korea, India, Thailand, the USA, Canada,

and Mexico. In 2010 the JV had pro forma sales of about EUR 6.4 billion and employed approximately 3,400 people.



## Bridgestone to expand tyre production in the USA

**Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (BATO)** will further increase production capacity of passenger car radial tyres and light truck radial tyres for the North American market at its Aiken Plant in South Carolina, USA. With an investment of USD 211 million, BATO will increase the plant's production capacity by approximately 8,000 tyres per day to around 37,750 tyres per day by the third quarter of 2015. Already in July, the company announced that it will increase the Aiken Plant's production capacity by approximately 4,750 tyres per day. This expansion is expected to be complete by the first quarter of 2013.

Furthermore, BATO will begin production of large and ultra-large off-the-road radial (ORR)

tyres for construction and mining vehicles at a new plant in Aiken County. In addition, Bridgestone will boost the production capacity of steel cord – a key component in large and ultra-large ORR tyres – of its Saga Plant, Japan, and its Clarksville Plant in Tennessee, USA. A total investment of USD 970 million will be used to complete all aspects of this project. The new plant is expected to begin production in the first half of 2014, and the project is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2020, bringing the plant's production capacity to approximately 130 t per day. Previously, large and ultra-large ORR tyres had been produced exclusively at the company's Shimonoeki and Kitakyushu plants in Japan.

## Continental plans major ramp-up of India operations

In July 2011, **Continental** formally completed the acquisition Indian company **Modi Tyres Company Limited (MTCL)** which included the existing bias truck and bus tyres (TBX) plant in Modipuram, the tube plant located in Partapur and all related operational assets to those plants along with all customer relationships. Following the acquisition, the new entity **Continental India Ltd.** is ramping up its operations significantly in both replacement and OEM business in India. The company will be increasing the production of the Modipuram plant to over

half a million bias truck and bus tyres as early as this year. There are plans for TBX production to grow continuously to more than one million units in 2013. In addition, the company announced further investments of more than EUR 50 million to start production of radial tyres for passenger cars and commercial vehicles in the second half of 2013. At the same time, Continental India plans to increase its headcount by more than a third from the current 1,600 employees up to 2,200 – 2,400 within the next few years.



## Sonderhoff USA starts silicone production

With an increase in demand for silicone-based gaskets, particularly from the US auto industry and also from the electronics and lighting industry, **Sonderhoff USA Corp.**, located in Elgin, IL, decided to add silicone manufacturing to its established produc-

tion of polyurethanes for FIPFG/ FIP (formed-in-place foam gasketing/formed-in-place) technology and potting systems. This year at the beginning of the fourth quarter the new silicone-based gasket material production line is going into operation.

Since its founding in 2003, Sonderhoff USA has provided manufacturers and suppliers in the automotive and electronics industries with solutions from its line of PU foam gasket and potting systems for sealing vehicle door modules, headlights, brake lights, filters, barrel lids, distributor housings, and switch boards. Automakers and suppliers with plants in the USA, such as the VW plant in Chattanooga, TN, are steady customers of the company. Sonderhoff USA also offers American customers contract manufacturing services for foam gasketing, gluing and potting. The company's range of services for gasket applications for OEM components and systems extend from prototypes to pilot, small runs, and up to full-scale series production. In addition, as a system supplier the company also offers the mixing and metering technology of Sonderhoff Engineering GmbH, Hoerbranz, Austria, and their automation solutions – individually designed for customer-specific manufacturing operations and gasket materials.

## Wacker expands cooperation with Turkish silicone compounder

The Munich-based German company **Wacker Chemie AG** is expanding its cooperation with the Turkish silicone compounder and distributor **Solpro Ltd.** Besides handling sales of high (HTV) and room (RTV) temperature vulcanising silicones for Wacker in Turkey, Solpro will take over the compounding of custom silicones

for the Turkish market with immediate effect. The ready-to-use compounds will be sold under Solpro's own brand and will be labelled **Based on Elastosil**. The compounds are targeted at customers in the automotive, construction, electronics, cables, and household appliance industries.

## KraussMaffei celebrating ten years of success in China

Since the founding of a subsidiary in China in 2001, the **KraussMaffei** group has become well-established with products and services of its three brands **KraussMaffei**, **KraussMaffei Berstorff**, and **Netstal** in the

Chinese market. As a supplier of large machines in the automotive industry, the company says it has gained a good reputation and considerably extended its customer base. Furthermore, the **MX** swivel-platen and compression