

Press release**BENTELER investing in growth region of Eastern Europe****Fifth Automotive plant in Czech Republic to go into operation at end of 2017**

Paderborn/Kláštorec nad Ohří, July 11, 2016: The Czech Republic is an important Eastern European production location for BENTELER Automotive. To keep pace with future growth, BENTELER is investing in a new components plant in the Czech Republic. Its fifth plant will go into operation at the end of 2017 and will focus on the production of lightweight components made of aluminum and hot-formed steel parts. Up to 500 new jobs will be created at the industrial park near Kláštorec nad Ohří (Ústí nad Labem region).

The company already has four plants in the Czech Republic, with more than 2,100 employees in total at the BENTELER Automotive sites in Liberec, Chrastava, Rumburk, and Jablonec. As recently as at the beginning of this year, the company put the extension to its Jablonec production plant into operation, which has increased in size by a third to approximately 11,000 square meters. This focuses on the manufacture of lightweight aluminum products. The expansion created an additional 70 jobs.

“The Czech Republic is an important strategic production location for us. Working closely with our customers, we develop ideas and solutions, then implement them locally in accordance with our customers’ needs. This is why we are now investing in a fifth plant in this growth region,” explains Laurent Favre, COO of BENTELER Automotive.

BENTELER Automotive has been in business in the Czech Republic for more than 20 years and has found the conditions there to be very favorable in the past. “We chose Kláštorec because the region is well known for its mechanical engineering industry and is also located in the direct vicinity of our target customers. The good international road connections and the proximity of the German border were likewise key decision-making factors,” says Petr Marijczuk, Executive Vice President, Region North & Eastern Europe, BENTELER Automotive.

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About BENTELER

With about 30,000 employees and 161 locations in 40 countries, the BENTELER-Group stands for a high degree of excellent material, production and technology in the areas of Automotive, Steel/Tube and Distribution. The three independent Business Divisions BENTELER Automotive, BENTELER Steel/Tube, and BENTELER Distribution are organized under the strategic management holding company BENTELER International AG. Continuing progress by

means of new materials, technologies, and products as well as long-term, profitable growth are the supporting pillars of the 140-year success story of the BENTLER-Group, which is in its fourth generation of family ownership.

About BENTELER Automotive

BENTELER Automotive provides development, production and services worldwide – while consistently focussing on quality, safety and efficiency. Our products include components and modules for chassis, body, engine and exhaust systems. Our customers include almost all major vehicle manufacturers. In close collaboration with them we develop and implement ideas and solutions with our complete vehicle competence. We have established a global production network which we are continuously expanding. Currently we have 74 plants in 24 countries and 21,326 employees.