

01/2019

German-based industrial group KERN-LIEBERS and the Danish hardening specialist Expanite expands their cooperation in China

Only one year after successfully launching Expanite's surface hardening technology for stainless steel in the Chinese market, KERN-LIEBERS and Expanite has signed a joint agreement, which will expand the product offerings available from KERN-LIEBERS' facility in Taicang, China. The new agreement ensures that all Expanite processes for surface hardening of stainless steel will be available in China from the fall of 2019.

In November 2017, KERN-LIEBERS and Expanite signed the first license agreement which included KERN-LIEBERS installing equipment to executing Expanite's hardening processes for martensitic stainless steels, also referred to as the ExpaniteHigh-T processes, at their Taicang facility near Shanghai, China. Now, approximately one year later, the Parties have agreed to expand the license agreement to also cover Expanite's processes for austenitic, ferritic and duplex stainless steels, referred to as the ExpaniteLow-T and SuperExpanite processes, and thereby making it possible to offer the complete range of Expanite processes for stainless steel to Chinese and other Asian companies.

"Our China business has had a fantastic start in 2018 and we continue to see tremendous growth potential towards many local and international companies with operations in China. The combination of KERN-LIEBERS reputation of supplying parts and heat treatment to the highest quality standards and Expanite's best-in-class hardening technologies for stainless steel, represents an ideal partnership, which essentially benefits our customers," Thomas Abel Sandholdt CEO at Expanite explains.

Richard Zhang, CEO of KERN-LIEBERS, Taicang continues, "with extension of our current installation, we will have the capabilities of reaching a much broader range of customers, applications and industries – and we can offer cutting-edge technologies to our customers. We are very proud of being the first in China to have true low-temperature surface hardening solution for stainless steel".

The new installation is expected to be fully operational during Q4, 2019.

About KERN-LIEBERS

KERN-LIEBERS, a medium-sized family-owned company based in southwest Germany, is a global technology leader for the production of highly complex strip and wire parts, and assemblies. The KERN-LIEBERS group of companies develops and manufactures precision products of the highest quality at over 50 locations around the world (www.kern-liebers.com).

About Expanite

Expanite is based on uninterrupted research since 2000 and was founded in 2010 by leading experts in materials and surface hardening. The company is headquartered in Hillerød near Copenhagen and has hardening capacity in the USA, Germany and China. In addition, Expanite's solutions are flexible and can be tailored to be introduced into a customer's own product line as part of a licensing agreement (www.expanite.com).

Contact info

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