

"Change of ownership offers great opportunities for growth"

The newly formed IAR Group Holding AG, "Industrial Automation & Robotics Group", is acquiring Bachmann Engineering AG and two other automation companies in Portugal and the USA with immediate effect. The aim is to use the strengths of the three successful companies to expand into new industries and geographical markets.

Bachmann Engineering AG from Zofingen (AG), which specializes in automation and robotics systems, is now part of the newly formed "IAR Group Holding AG" (IAR Group) based in Köniz (BE). The IAR Group, which recently also acquired the Portuguese company Zeugma S.A. as well as the US-based company Automation Specialist Services LLC, is backed by entrepreneurs from a wide range of industries.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult to grow on its own"

"I am convinced that the change of ownership offers great opportunities for growth," says Roger A. Bachmann, former owner of Bachmann Engineering AG. Bachmann had already handed over the management of the company to Marc Strub in February 2020 and since then has gradually withdrawn from the day-to-day business. "The company has developed positively, but is now at a point where it is becoming increasingly difficult to grow on its own," Bachmann comments. "The past economic crisis, the strength of the Swiss franc and the Corona pandemic have shown me that expansion into new industries and being part of an international network are inevitable." For these reasons, Bachmann decided to sell the company to the IAR Group.

Management remains in place

For Marc Strub, who will remain CEO of Bachmann Engineering AG and join the management of the IAR Group, the change of ownership is an exciting challenge: "I am looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunities and contacts that the new group structure offers". The current members of the leadership team, Michael Wernli and David Lang, will also remain in management.

Continuity as a prerequisite for growth

This is an important part of the IAR Group's strategy: "We focus on continuity," says Group CEO Sébastien Perroud. "This is the only way we can combine the strengths of the different companies and open up new industries and geographical markets." Perroud explains that the know-how and experience of the existing employees are central to the growth that the IAR Group is aiming for. He is convinced that the three companies have enormous potential for the future, which can be exploited within the framework of the IAR Group: "We are active in a growth market and can offer this market innovative, scalable and adaptable automation solutions."

Bachmann Engineering AG, based in Zofingen (Switzerland), builds customized turnkey robot and automation systems. The company can look back on around 45 years of experience in special machine construction as well as 10 years of experience in collaborative robotics and more than 500 installed systems with UR-Cobots. Bachmann Engineering AG is considered the Swiss market leader in collaborative robotics. Further information: www.bachmann-ag.com

Zeugma S.A., based in Mafra (Portugal), is a global supplier of customized industrial solutions. These include industrial machinery, equipment, systems and services in the fields of automation, process control, industrial robotics, industrial information technologies and mechanical engineering. The company has a special focus on packaging solutions. Further information: www.zeugma.pt

Automation Specialist Services LLC is based in Huntley (Illinois, USA), and is a national leader in custom automation machinery and systems design, development, manufacturing, and implementation. Automation SS focuses on innovative solutions with smart, elegant design as well as on process and cost efficiency. Further information: www.automationspecialistservices.com

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