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Motorservice builds modern high-bay warehouse

MS Motorservice International GmbH, a subsidiary of the Rheinmetall technology group, is building a new, state-of-the-art high-bay warehouse at its Neuenstadt site. The total investment amounts to almost 25 million euros. The high-bay warehouse is expected to be operational in March 2025. The investment reflects the extraordinarily positive progress made by the replacement parts specialist.

According to its business plan, the company will be able to increase its sales by significantly more than 10 per cent in the 2024 financial year. While sales for the Motorservice Group amounted to just under 500 million euros in 2023, they will be in the mid-range between 500 and 600 million euros for 2024. Predictions for profits paint a similarly positive picture: in the first two quarters of the current financial year, pre-tax profits were significantly up by over 50 per cent on the previous year. That said, a cyber attack on the civilian area of Rheinmetall in early 2023 had a negative impact on business at the Motorservice Group. In spite of this challenge, Motorservice achieved record profits in 2023.

And all the signs at Motorservice are pointing towards growth for the coming years too, at a predicted rate in the mid-to-high single-digit range (in percentage terms). According to its calculations, the replacement parts specialist will achieve sales of just under 600 million euros for the 2025 calendar year, and somewhere in the mid-range between 600 and 700 million euros in 2026. In light of this predicted growth, significant investments have been made: more than 100 new employees were taken on in the past twelve months across the 14 sites worldwide to help cope with consistently high order levels, with current orders exceeding 100 million euros.

Optimising delivery times

The new warehouse building will play a decisive role in ensuring current and future incoming orders are processed quickly. The investment is intended to provide back-up storage capacity for despatch purposes. The aim is to optimise material flows and thereby reduce delivery times. The four-aisle high-bay warehouse will operate on a three-shift basis. Around 300 to 400 pallets a day are expected to be stored at the high-bay warehouse. Extensive conveyor technology and six driverless transport systems (DTS) are to be installed with a view to linking the incoming goods and despatch areas. A bridge will facilitate pallet transport between the high-bay warehouse and the existing building, with goods being moved towards the new building.

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All material flows will be controlled via the modular warehouse management system known as Kardex Control Centre (KCC). Before passing through the incoming goods area in the high-bay warehouse, all pallets will be given a label bearing a unique identification number. This will facilitate planning and central coordination of ongoing stock management. Initial operations are due to start in March 2025.

About Motorservice

The Motorservice Group is the sales organisation for Rheinmetall's worldwide aftermarket activities. It is a leading supplier of engine components to the free market in spare parts. With its premium brands Kolbenschmidt, Pierburg, TRW Engine Components as well as the brands BF and turbo by Intec, Motorservice offers its retail and workshop customers a wide and in-depth range of top-quality products.