



PRESS RELEASE

OQEMA celebrates its 100th anniversary and takes a glimpse into the future

Liedberg, 17 January 2022

The OQMEA Group is celebrating its 100th anniversary and is not only taking a look at its history but is also dealing with questions of the future. In which areas can a chemical distributor become more sustainable and how does the company want to develop?

Under the motto "Planting Seeds", the OQEMA Group is taking the journey to a more sustainable future: we are planting seeds that can flourish and grow, giving impulses and impetus that drive the development of the company. Because everything starts with an inspiration, a thought that carries the spirit of the future.

But how is the motto put into practice? To this end, six core areas were defined, which are reflected in the anniversary campaign: PEOPLE, PLANET, PRODUCT, PERFORMANCE, PRESENCE, PLANTING.

We show appreciation for people, regardless of whether they are our employees, our customers, suppliers or partners. We deal with people first and chemicals second. Our corporate culture is characterised by the way we treat each person individually. Committed and motivated employees have always been an important success factor for OQEMA. We support our employees in actively realising their potential with development programmes, focus on diversity and promote mental as well as physical health - this is how we live the PEOPLE aspect.

By always accepting new challenges, we have been able to gradually expand our business and we are proud to be represented by an integrated network of office and warehouse locations throughout Europe. We are always looking for ways to make these locations as climate-friendly as possible, for example by opening a completely CO₂-neutral warehouse in Austria, installing photovoltaic systems, switching to green electricity, charging stations for our employees' electric cars or simply actively separating and avoiding waste, such as the paperless office. This is what we mean by PRESENCE.

In the area of PRODUCT we consider what contribution we as a chemical distributor can make to a greener world. We can review and optimise our product portfolio, identify trends in the market and add products to our portfolio that will be important in the future. We are creating a "green portfolio" and forming partnerships with innovative suppliers who can provide us with bio-



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based raw materials. In Germany, we already have a solid bio-based portfolio when it comes to Flavours and Fragrances. Bio-based solvents & solutions that are derived from natural resources and waste biomass, are also contributing to our growing "green" portfolio. Our goal is to expand this portfolio step by step to all market segments – and to become the market leader in more selected products – in some we already are.

Reuse, recycle, reduce - the 3 Rs of sustainability are assigned to the PLANET aspect. Circular economy within chemicals will play an important role in achieving sustainability goals. We believe our long standing experience and dedicated processing and distribution assets for recycling of chemicals will enable OQEMA to be recognised as a leader in the recovery & reuse of wide range of chemicals and energy storage applications. Others talk about sustainability – we do it – with our own recycling facilities.

PERFORMANCE is vital for the survival of any company; to continue to actively shape the industry in the future, we uphold values that drive us and make us what we are today: one of the leading distribution companies for basic and speciality chemicals in Europe. But we do not stop here. A continuous consolidation process has been taking place in the distribution market for a long time: If you want to survive in the market, you have to recognise growth opportunities and take advantage of them. That is what we are doing. Another factor in the highly competitive market is profitability. It gives us the flexibility, the means for investment and enables survival in lean periods - it gives us the staying power to stay on the ball, to put the customer at the centre of our actions, to recognise trends on the market and to serve them.

And last but not least, heart of our project PLANTING: A greener, more sustainable world can be implemented not only by adapting products and optimising supply chains and warehouses, but also by the simple joy of planting trees. In 2021, the Overlack family acquired the insolvent Lappen tree nursery, which is now relaunching under the name Baum & Bonheur. The focus here is quite clear: it is a heartfelt investment in our environment.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the OQEMA Group, trees are now being planted at every OQEMA location - after all, trees make a significant contribution to climate protection: they absorb CO₂ and bind it. This reduces the CO₂ content in the atmosphere, which counteracts global warming.

We are happy to be on the road to the future together with our employees, customers and partners. We look forward to continuing to actively shape the

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distribution market and work towards a more sustainable, greener world. We look forward to the next 100 years of OQEMA.

More information about the future vision and the history of the family business can be found at the anniversary website: www.oqema/100.com

About OQEMA

The OQEMA Group is one of the leading chemical distributors in Europe. Almost 1,200 employees currently work for OQEMA at 45 locations in 23 countries. At the interface between chemicals manufacturers and chemical-processing industries, the OQEMA Group provides pan-European services along the supply chains, which includes procurement, product development, individual mixing, logistics and recycling. The Group has specific expertise in the technical and regulatory support of its customers. OQEMA is also the exclusive distribution partner of various renowned producers. OQEMA offers a highly dynamic and continuously expanding product portfolio of more than 15,000 products.

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