

News Release

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, opens second production line for silica-based effect pigments in Gernsheim

- **Investment of nearly € 28 million in Gernsheim strengthens manufacturing site**
- **The company's silica-based Colorstream® and Xirona® product ranges for automotive coatings and color cosmetics perfectly meet recent market trends**
- **New facility allows to capture growth opportunities**

Darmstadt, Germany, September 21, 2021 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, today opens a second production line for silica-based effect pigments. Around 750 employees work at this site, which is home to its largest pigment production facility worldwide. With this investment, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, will significantly increase production capacities for silicon dioxide flakes, a special substrate for its Colorstream® and Xirona® product ranges for automotive coatings and color cosmetics. These pigments provide a unique color shift depending on the angle of observation. Especially the volcanic red of Colorstream® Lava Red shows an uncompromisingly dynamic color variety in continuous harmony and thus features striking automotive coatings while at the same time fulfil multiple technical requirements, like the ability to withstand the ravages of weather and UV rays.

“Silica-based pigments enable special effects, that are exceptionally well received by our customers and perfectly meet recent market trends,” said Jeff White, Head of Surface Solutions at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. “Through this state-of-

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the-art production facility, we will significantly increase the capacity for silica-based pigments in Gernsheim and flexibility in order to capture these growth opportunities.”

The investment of nearly € 28 million in a second silica production line in Gernsheim strengthens the manufacturing site and promotes the unique selling points of silica-based pigments within the global pigment portfolio of the Surface Solutions business unit of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

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About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and electronics. Around 58,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people’s lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2020, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 17.5 billion in 66 countries.

The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark “Merck” internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Electronics. Since its founding in 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company’s technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.