

# PRESS RELEASE

## Schwarz Produktion Acquires ARTiBack GmbH in Halle (Saale), Germany

Weißenfels/ Halle (Saale), 9 November 2023

Schwarz Produktion is acquiring the large-scale bakery ARTiBack GmbH in Halle (Saale), Germany. The completion of the transaction is subject to approval by the antitrust authorities and is scheduled for the first quarter of 2024. Both parties agreed not to disclose the purchase price.

ARTiBack GmbH was founded in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany in 2016 and has been producing freshly baked goods including specialty breads and rolls from natural raw materials for the food retail market since 2018. Today, around 150 employees produce a wide range of baked goods based on artisan baking tradition.

“Germany is the country of baking variety. The Halle location is ultramodern and thrives on connecting the traditional baker’s trade with new production methods. We are making this quality and this variety available to everyone,” said Jörg Aldenkott, CEO Schwarz Produktion.

“We are delighted to have found a partner with whom we can continue to develop the site in the long term,” said Marc Michael Saam, Co-Managing Director of ARTiBack GmbH. “Schwarz Produktion has the necessary expertise and economic performance,” added ARTiBack Co-Managing Director Axel Sehnert.

The site in Halle is now the sixth Schwarz Produktion company in the German state of Saxony-Anhalt. In addition to the administrative seat in Weißenfels, they also include the beverage production plants of MEG Leißling and Jessen, as well as the MEG Roßbach plastics plant. The upcoming integration of ARTiBack GmbH means the Schwarz Produktion companies in Saxony-Anhalt will employ a total of around 1,400 employees.

The bakery in Halle is intended to help the Schwarz Group retail companies (Lidl and Kaufland) to meet the high demand for fresh, varied and high-quality baked goods from their customers.

“ARTiBack is a fantastic addition to our existing bakery production facilities, which have grown successfully over the past ten years. It will serve as a basis for ARTiBack to build on its accomplishments in the long term as part of Schwarz Produktion,” concluded Aldenkott.

## **About Schwarz Produktion**

Schwarz Produktion is the umbrella brand of the production facilities of Schwarz Group. In total, over 5,500 employees in companies of Schwarz Produktion throughout Germany produce high-quality food, sustainable packaging and other materials for the retail chains Lidl and Kaufland. In addition to mineral water and soft drinks, Schwarz Produktion companies also make chocolate, dried fruits, baked goods, coffee, pasta products, ice cream and paper. In addition, the company's three plastics and recycling plants make up the central component of a one-of-a-kind PET recycling loop, producing PET preforms made largely of 100 percent recycled material.

## **About Schwarz Group**

Schwarz Group is a leading retail group with around 13,700 stores and 575,000 employees in 32 countries. The companies of Schwarz Group generated total sales of EUR 154.1 billion in the 2022 fiscal year. With divisions for production, retail, environmental services and digital services, the companies of Schwarz Group have developed their own ecosystem and cover the entire value cycle. Lidl and Kaufland are its pillars in the food retail market. Many of the own-brand products on its shelves come directly from Schwarz Produktion, from ice cream to beverages. The environmental service provider PreZero, active in waste disposal and recycling management, invests in a clean future to make its vision of a closed recycling loop into reality. Schwarz Digits develops and distributes independent IT solutions and digital services, contributing to independent digitalisation for both the companies of Schwarz Group and external customers. The service division, Schwarz Dienstleistungen, provides support for administrative and operational topics.

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