

# PRESS RELEASE

## Schwarz Produktion in Rheine Expands Further

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Solent Rheine, the new Schwarz Produktion nut roasting plant, has successfully commenced production: The brand-new plant has been packing walnuts for Lidl and Kaufland for three weeks now – thus earlier than planned. Other products, such as pistachios or pumpkin seeds, will be added over the next few months. The product portfolio will then also be enhanced by a new nut roasting plant.

“In just 18 months we managed to build another modern food production plant. So now we can reliably supply Lidl and Kaufland customers throughout Europe with top-quality roasted nuts and dried fruit”, explains Joerg Aldenkott, Chief Executive Officer of Schwarz Produktion, adding that “Solent Rheine is now optimally complementing our existing and very successful nut production plant in Übach-Palenberg.”

This new plant with its 160 employees is located adjacent to the Bon Presso coffee roasting facility which was commissioned in 2022. Built in tandem with the high-bay warehouse, which provides intermediate storage for coffee as well as nut products, a state-of-the-art site has emerged offering the best working conditions to more than 320 employees.

In future, around 50,000 tons of coffee and 47,000 tons of nuts and dried fruit are to be roasted or packaged in Rheine every year. Simultaneously, Sindra Rheine, the Schwarz Produktion logistics company, ensures the smooth handling and transport of the goods produced. They moreover manage the high-bay warehouse with its 48,000 pallet spaces.

“I would like to thank all colleagues, especially our project company Pro Projekte, for the successful realisation of this ambitious project,” said Joerg Aldenkott. “With the launch of Solent, we are strengthening our Rheine site even more. The rapid growth shows that deciding in favour of Rheine was absolutely right.”

The concept of sustainability plays a central role in the development of the site. As such, the companies of Schwarz Produktion lay great store on renewable energy, which is also generated by means of photovoltaic systems on the roofs of the plants. The plants in Rheine were also built in an extremely energy-efficient and sustainable manner: This is evidenced by heat recovery from compressed air, filters to prevent the formation of odours, better heat insulation, a modern ventilation system as well as the exclusive use of certified construction material.

## **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 produce high-quality food as well as sustainable packaging and materials for the retail chains, Lidl and Kaufland.

In addition to mineral water and soft drinks, companies of Schwarz Produktion also make chocolate, dried fruit, baked goods, coffee, pasta products, ice cream and paper. What is more, 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 154.1 billion euros in the 2022 fiscal year. Split into production, retail and environmental divisions, the companies of Schwarz Group 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, ranging from ice cream to beverages, come directly from Schwarz Produktion. The environmental service provider PreZero, active in waste disposal and recycling management, pursues its vision of a closed recycling loop thus investing in a clean tomorrow. Schwarz Dienstleistungen provides support with administrative and operational topics.

## **Press Contact**

Email: [presse@schwarz-produktion.com](mailto:presse@schwarz-produktion.com)  
[www.schwarz-produktion.com](http://www.schwarz-produktion.com)