

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Polycompound celebrates its 30th anniversary**

**The independent toll compounder Polycompound marks its 30th anniversary this year, underlining the ongoing success of its technical toll compounding business strategy with plans for yet more investment at its site at Sissach.**

The privately owned company **Polycompound AG** (CH-4450 Sissach, [www.polycompound.ch](http://www.polycompound.ch)) is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 5<sup>th</sup> this year and continues to invest in more production and warehousing capacity at its 6,000m<sup>2</sup> site. The company is looking back on a great history of continues growth and taking on new challenges every day.

#### Focus on toll compounding

Its exclusive focus on toll production will, however, remain unchanged. “Our partners want to be sure that their know-how, their formulations, process details and marketing details are kept strictly confidential. This is not possible with a partner simply providing a secrecy agreement,” says Polycompound CEO Thomas Manetsch. “Our business model is an insurance for our clients that we will keep information confidential and safe.”

#### Committed to Co-Kneader technology

The company also remains committed to co-kneader compounding technology. “The co-kneader is the right machine for our targeted markets,” explains Stefan Rohr, Head of Process Technology. “Thirty years of experience have proven that high-filled shear sensitive materials are best compounded on this technology. Polycompound’s expertise in co-kneader processing extends further than its own 30-year history. The company was set up in 1988 by four former employees of the Swiss co-kneader extruder maker Buss following its decision to end in-house toll compounding. The quartet took on one of the company’s co-kneaders – an MDK100 – and established Polycompound in space rented from Sissach-based agricultural products firm Nebiker.

Their technical and cable industry toll compounding business grew fast. In 1989, the original MDK100 was joined by a larger Buss MDK140 line, taking annual production to more than 1,000 tons. A smaller MDK46 line was installed in 1991 to compound implantable medical compounds.

By the time of the company’s 10th anniversary, Polycompound had added three more lines – MDK46, MDK100 and MDK200 models – and annual production capacity exceeded 5,000 tons. Expertise had extended to include production of expandable compounds, HFFR and semiconducting cable materials, and reinforced polyamides.

Polycompound’s innovative approach to technology continued into the new millennium. It invested in plant and extruder upgrades in 2007 to safely handle bio-based fillers and nanotube additives. It also replaced one of its MDK140 lines with a larger MDK200 system, pushing annual production over 9,000 tonnes. In 2014 the company’s development centre was extended, allowing it to offer customers the best possible tolling support, and was further upgraded with a new X-Compound co-kneader the following year.

Today, the company operates seven co-kneader compounding lines ranging from lab units for trials and small scale productions upto high volume production systems with capacities of more than 1,500 kg/h. Employment stands at about 60 people, many of which have been with the company for more than 15 years. “Polycompound is continuously investing in production equipment and capacity, but also in our people,” says Manetsch. “Our people, our long term staff and our new employees, are the base of our success.”



Polycompound

Polycompound AG in Sissach Switzerland, produces customized special-purpose and standard compounds for an international clientele. The company has no product portfolio of its own, but exclusively processes compounds for customers according to their strictly secret formulations – from small-scale productions of a few kilograms to hundreds of tones. With seven Continuous Kneaders each encapsuled in separate production rooms and an annual production capacity of 8'000-12'000 tones p.a., the company founded in 1988 has a work force of approximately 60 employees.

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