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Press release

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Bekaert Van Buren, Arkansas successfully achieved TL9000 certification

Bekaert's largest North American ISW manufacturing plant located in Van Buren, Arkansas successfully passed another TL9000 Surveillance Audit end of 2017.

The audit is a thorough examination of the facility's quality management system, and touches every aspect of the process, from sales to planning to manufacturing and management. The certification was created to focus on supply chain directives throughout the international telecommunications industry, including the USA. The audit team from Bureau Veritas was supported by ANAB, an ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board.

The audit team noted four strengths of the plant; including employee engagement, management responsibility and continuous improvement, while finding no major non-conformances. TL9000 certification is required to provide products into the telecommunications industry.

The Bekaert Van Buren location is one of only 5 companies within North America to achieve TL9000 certification.

About Bekaert

Bekaert (<u>www.bekaert.com</u>) is a world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coating technologies. We pursue to be the preferred supplier for our steel wire products and solutions by continuously delivering superior value to our customers worldwide. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with almost 30 000 employees worldwide, headquarters in Belgium and € 4.4 billion in annual revenue.

Bekaert in North America

Bekaert is present in North America since the 1950s. Today, Bekaert and Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group together employ almost 1900 people in 13 plants and offices in the US and Canada and serve a wide variety of steel wire and cord solutions to customers in the tire and other automotive components industries, the construction and infrastructure sector, the oil & gas, energy and utilities sectors, agricultural and residential fencing markets and many more.