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*Natasha & Jörn Rohde, ROHDE Schutzgasöfen GmbH, Germany. "For us 2016 has been a very good year and our prediction for 2017 is even better. We are very happy to announce that we already have orders until autumn 2017. While predictions are always difficult we are quite confident that this year will be very good. Our strategy has been to become more international by delivering more furnaces and salt recovery units outside the European Union, and we have achieved that goal. The requirements in the heat treatment market increase incessantly and never become any easier so it is important to constantly develop new processes besides building furnaces, which are linked to company networks. The automotive industry is especially strong on specifying new new heat treatment requirements, which will lead to new processes and also investments into new furnaces. That's what we are expecting in the future, and our goal is to be able to handle these constantly changing requirements."*

*Another goal we want to achieve in 2017 is to improve our operational processes in the manufacturing area and in the offices. As our new factory has been planned in order to improve all our operational processes, the manufacturing is supposed to be much more efficient and the manufacturing time is supposed to be shorter - although delivery times at the moment are longer, but that's due to the amount of orders we already have. So this year we will see the effects of the process improvements. As we have moved into our new facility in Hanau mid November 2016, we will only start to see the improvements in the course of this year. On one hand we want our customers to be happy with our products that are still exclusively made in Germany. But in order to have good products on the other hand, we need our team of employees. We want our employees to be motivated and this will be achieved due to our new working environment. For all of us the move into the new facility has been a new start and we are expecting a lot of positive developments in the future. So we are really looking forward to a successful year 2017.*

4. Januar 2017