



## **Hirschvogel Automotive Group Expands - Joint Venture with Kotani Corporation Japan in Gliwice (Poland)**

Denklingen. The Hirschvogel Automotive Group and the Japanese automotive supplier, Kotani Corporation, will be working together in future in Poland. With 66 % of the shares, Hirschvogel Holding GmbH will be the majority shareholder in the joint venture company Hirschvogel Kotani Poland.

The new company will be located in a newly built industrial area in Gliwice, approx. 100 km west of Krakow. An automated 2,000 t Schuler press and a 630 t Aida cold press will primarily produce warm and combined warm/cold forgings across a production area of approx. 2,300 m<sup>2</sup>.

The joint venture partner, Kotani Corporation, headquartered in Kasai City, Japan, west of Osaka, achieved a turnover of around 117 million euros in 2008 with a team of 300 employees. Besides local companies on the Japanese market, such as NTN, NSK, JTEKT and AISIN, companies of international renown, such as Timken USA/Europe, SNR France and SKF Sweden, are also among the customer base at Kotani. The technology spectrum ranges from hot, warm and cold forged products, cold and hot rolled products as well as parts produced using orbital forging processes. Facilities for manufacturing machined components are also available.

For the Hirschvogel Automotive Group, the founding of the joint venture with Kotani Corporation represents an integral part of its forward-thinking globalization strategy. Besides its plant in the US, the Hirschvogel Group is well represented on all major growth markets, with locations in South America, China, India and now in Poland, too.

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Dr. Manfred Hirschvogel, CEO of Hirschvogel Holding GmbH (left), after signing the treaty with Masahiro Kotani, President of Kotani Corporation (right)