

## PRESS RELEASE

### 60 years of vacuum competence at adixen

- **French engineering sets standards in the vacuum industry**
- **More than 600 employees develop and manufacture high-tech products in France**
- **adixen's history is dominated by technological leadership and innovation**

**Annecy, France, September 21, 2012.** French engineering in the field of vacuum started its successful history at Alcatel 60 years ago in 1952. Since then, the company – today under the name of adixen Vacuum Products – has been setting standards in the vacuum industry by developing and manufacturing innovative vacuum pumps and devices particularly for the semiconductor industry. In addition, the instrumentation, analytical, research & development and automotive industries as well as microsystem technology benefit from the experience of the company's seasoned management team and qualified people. Today – now as part of the Pfeiffer Vacuum Group – more than 600 employees in Annecy produce and market turbopumps, backing pumps, leak detectors and decontamination systems with industry leading technology. On this occasion, adixen will hold a reception on September 21, 2012 with official guests. The next day, the company will open its doors for the employees and their families.

Annecy enjoys a high reputation as a center of expertise in the field of fine mechanics. Therefore, in 1952 the company Société Alsacienne de Constructions Mécaniques (SACM, later known as ALCATEL) established a precision engineering branch there which was later known as adixen. After only one year of operation, this plant already employed about 400 people. The main customer then was the French Navy. In order to further diversify its customer base, the management at adixen decided, with great foresight, at this early stage to use its expertise in

precision mechanics as well as high grade electronics and to specialize in vacuum solutions and instruments.

At the end of 2010, Pfeiffer Vacuum – the German inventor of the turbopump – acquired adixen and its worldwide branches. The combination of adixen and Pfeiffer Vacuum, two leaders in pumping solutions and leak detection systems, created a powerful force in the industry as the product portfolios are complementary. By joining forces, these two companies entered an entirely new dimension. With an exciting product portfolio that makes for a good mutual fit, both companies turned into the sole provider of complete vacuum solutions including chambers and control software.

**adixen possesses a rich history of technological leadership and innovation:**

- The first milestone for the company was the production of an improved version of rotary vane vacuum pumps with a belt drive motor in 1961. Users of vacuum technology were growing in number at that time and, as a consequence, the redevelopment of the site in Annecy was initiated. Boosted by its early successes in France, the company opened a commercial subsidiary in Wertheim (Germany) in 1964.
- Also in 1964, adixen – under the name of “Alcatel Vacuum Technology” – invented the first direct drive rotary vane pump rotating at 1500 revolutions per minute. At the same time, Alcatel Annecy developed its first helium leak detector which was marketed in 1966. The creation of turbomolecular pumps on gas bearings culminated in the mass production of these in 1971. One year later, Alcatel opened a commercial subsidiary in Boston (USA) to meet the needs of the market.
- Alcatel introduced its first ball bearing turbomolecular pump with 450 l/s ball bearings in 1978 and produced its 100,000th rotary vane pump in 1983. In 1980, the company developed its first

machine for the plasma etching of silicon wafers for the semiconductor industry.

- The 1990s were years of repositioning, growth and strengthening the image. The year 1992 was marked by the launch of the first Alcatel dry pump (ADP 80). Thanks to the performance of this range of products, the company took up a position in the semiconductor market amongst the world's leading players. At the same time, the company reinforced its position in this market with the introduction of its first dry detector and its first magnetically levitated hybrid turbopumps for semiconductor applications. Moreover, it extended its world-wide influence by creating further subsidiaries in Europe and in Asia.
- The year 2002 saw the launch of two new production tools for deep silicon etching for the emerging Micro Electro-Mechanical Systems industry (MEMS). In 2004, the ALCATEL group centered its business on telecommunications. The subsidiary which operated at that time under the name "Alcatel Vacuum Technology" decided to create its own brand name «adixen». This was to express the company's determination to take its know-how into the world of the vacuum. At the same time, it opened a subsidiary in Shanghai (China).
- In 2008, the company introduced two systems for the analysis and cleaning of the molecular contamination during the semiconductor manufacturing process. The same year, adixen developed a range of high capacity dry pumps (ADK series) for the flat panel display and the photovoltaic market. These activities led to the major commercial successes in 2010 with the major players of this market, after the serious world economic crisis in 2009. The company was able to preserve its industrial and human potential during that crisis thanks to its flexibility, the adaptability of its staff, and was preparing to come back strongly and rapidly in the months which followed.
- In 2009 adixen took advantage of the slowdown in production that was caused by the international economic crisis, to introduce

the "Green Lab Fab" eco concept. Among others, this concept is designed to reduce the energy requirements of backing pumps produced in France by 30 percent by 2013, compared to the reference value in 2009. Sustainability is much more than just a fad topic: it is an essential part of the corporate culture and has long been a key success factor. For one thing, it is important that products are economical, efficient and long-lasting. It also promotes the sustainable use of resources during development and manufacturing.

Today, the Pfeiffer Vacuum Group is highly profitable with a strong balance sheet and an excellent competitive position. Growth potential results from the combined product portfolio available to new and existing customers.

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[Brigitte.Loos@pfeiffer-vacuum.de](mailto:Brigitte.Loos@pfeiffer-vacuum.de)**About Pfeiffer Vacuum**

Pfeiffer Vacuum (Stock Exchange Symbol PFV, ISIN DE0006916604) is one of the world's leading providers of vacuum solutions. In addition to a full range of hybrid and magnetically levitated turbopumps, the product portfolio comprises backing pumps, measurement and analysis devices, components as well as vacuum chambers and systems. Ever since the invention of the turbopump by Pfeiffer Vacuum, the company has stood for innovative solutions and high-tech products that are used in the markets Analytic, Industry, Research & Development, Coating and Semiconductor. Founded in 1890, Pfeiffer Vacuum is active throughout the world today. The company employs a workforce of some 2,300 people and has more than 20 subsidiaries. For more information, please visit [www.pfeiffer-vacuum.com](http://www.pfeiffer-vacuum.com)