

Press Release

US-based A. Schulman Launches Facility in Çerkezköy

On October 11, US-based A. Schulman Inc., a leading international supplier of high-performance plastic compounds, composites, and polymers, held an official inauguration ceremony for its new facility in Çerkezköy Organized Industrial Zone, Tekirdağ. The new manufacturing facility will produce premium additive, white, and natural masterbatches for the plastics industry with an annual capacity of 17,500 tons. The facility will serve Turkey and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Tekirdağ, October 11, 2017 – US-based A. Schulman Inc., a leading international supplier of high-performance plastic compounds, composites, and polymers, began production on premium additive, white, and natural masterbatches (granulated colorants and additives for plastics raw materials) in Çerkezköy to serve Turkey and the MENA region.

The inauguration ceremony for A.Schulman's Çerkezköy Facility was attended by **Assoc. Prof. Hasan Ali Çelik, Deputy Minister of Science, Industry, and Technology; Arda Ermut, President of the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) and President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies; Yavuz Erođlu, PAGEV President; Eyüp Sözdinler, President of the Çerkezköy Organized Industrial Zone (OIZ); Heinrich Lingnau, Senior Vice President and General Manager of EMEA Region at A. Schulman; and Ekin Kurt, A. Schulman's General Manager for Turkey and Board Member.** Many business partners, local authorities, and employees were also present at the inauguration.

Speaking at the ceremony, Heinrich Lingnau, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) at A. Schulman, said, "This facility is a new platform built to provide more efficient service to our customers in the region. Turkey has become a main transit point for trade in the region. This will allow us to get a bigger share in a fast-growing market and become stronger." Board Member Ekin Kurt further commented, "After the rapid and profitable growth in sales, we have now achieved another big accomplishment. We are proud of our strategic investment in Turkey. A. Schulman masterbatches meet our customers' needs, provide high-performance solutions, and deliver cost benefits."

ISPAT President Arda Ermut's speech at the inauguration ceremony of the Çerkezköy Facility focused on the support that his agency has been providing to A. Schulman since 2015. "We are glad to have such an investment come to our country in an import-intensive industry. We consider this a key investment since it will boost employment, production capacity, and export figures in Turkey. Our goal is to attract investments that will not only provide investment value, but also put Turkey in a better position in the value chains of critical industries. My best wishes for this investment and Turkey", said Ermut. Remarking that political relations between countries tend to ebb and flow at times, Ermut added: "Turkey's potential, strategic position, political stability, effective leadership, and the structural reforms we have implemented are all well-known. Economic actors always take the longer view. Their decisions are not influenced by political developments. A good example is what we are all doing here today: launching a facility through a new investment from US-based A.Schulman. We know that we will attract even more investments from the USA."

Assoc. Prof. Hasan Ali Çelik, Deputy Minister of Science, Industry, and Technology, pointed out during his speech that multinational corporations make great contributions to peace and prosperity around the world. They serve a good purpose by bringing decision makers and workers together.

He described the beginning of A. Schulman's production in Turkey as a highly welcomed development, adding that: *"Turkey is an important hub of commerce in the region due to the customs union agreement it has signed with the EU. Turkey offers great potential to domestic and foreign investors. Multinational corporations are positioning Turkey as an operation center as well as an investment location. We are also improving in technology production. We are positioning Turkey as an incubator. The number of documented R&D centers and design centers will reach 1000 by the end of the year. Similarly, the international partnerships in our technoparks are very promising. Taking our potential into account, there are no obstacles preventing Turkey from becoming a regional incubator."*

About A. Schulman, Inc

A. Schulman, Inc. is a leading international supplier of high-performance plastic compounds, composites, and polymers, headquartered in Akron, Ohio. **Since 1928**, it has been providing innovative solutions to meet its customers' demanding requirements. The company's customers **span a wide range of markets such as packaging, automotive, building & construction, electronics & electrical, agriculture, personal care & hygiene, sports, leisure & home, and more.** The company **employs approximately 4,800 people and has 54 manufacturing facilities globally.** A. Schulman reported net sales of approximately \$2.5 billion for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2016.