

PRESS RELEASE



APA GmbH from Alzenau became part of the BMZ Group and will drive automation in the battery sector in the future

- **BMZ Group is the new owner of APA Automation**
- **Preservation of the Alzenau site and all 19 jobs**
- **Focus on automated manufacturing solutions and processes for battery production**

Karlstein am Main, 18/02/2021. At the beginning of the year, the BMZ Group based in Karlstein am Main, innovation driver and leading manufacturer of lithium-ion battery systems, took over APA GmbH Anlagen- und Produktionsmaschinenbau from Alzenau, which had been in self-administration proceedings since the beginning of August. APA had been a system supplier of production equipment, designer and manufacturer of fully and semi-automatic assembly, processing and testing equipment on behalf of customers for many years, but suffered a significant drop in orders due to the effects of the corona pandemic in 2020 and finally filed an application with the Aschaffenburg District Court. Under the umbrella of the BMZ Group, which is strongly positioned in the battery market, automation systems and solutions for use in battery production will be developed in future.

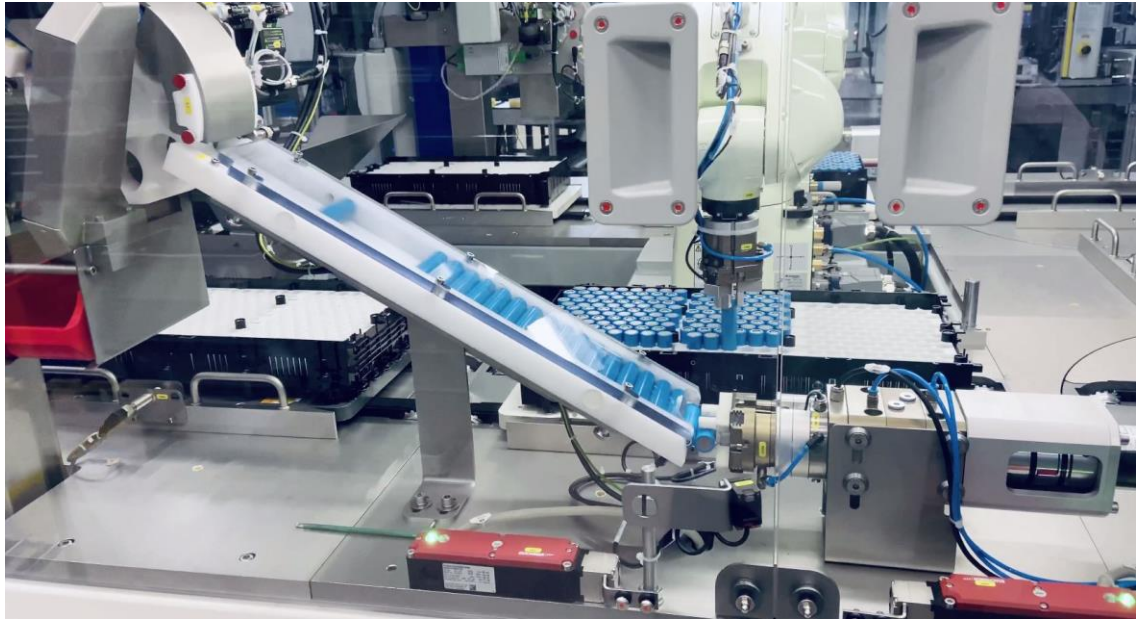
Ensuring know-how and manufacturing capacities

APA manufactures special machines for screwing, welding, gluing and parts processing, as well as testing systems, conveying equipment, process engineering systems and systems for processing special materials. The objective of this strategic investment by the BMZ Group is to secure know-how as well as development and production capacities in the longterm. These will be used in BMZ's internal production, assembly and testing of products and systems in areas such as the rapidly growing electromobility sector. For more than 25 years, BMZ has been developing and producing high-tech batteries from single-cell to 2.5 tonne systems and is increasingly focusing on automated manufacturing processes.

Focus on automated solutions in battery production

The takeover is an ideal addition for the BMZ Group, as APA GmbH has already been a technology supplier to them for many years and, as a new member of the group of companies, will actively shape the change to automation in the future. The even closer cooperation in the future will also allow new developments to be tested directly in practice and aligned with new requirements, so that external customers will also benefit from previous experience as well as faster development processes for new enquiries.

Current topics in the automated production world of the battery are, for example, fully automated cell plugging or laser welding, which technologically replace previous manual and partly manual processes and thus significantly increase quality and efficiency in production.



Caption: A high-precision cell insertion machine that places the round cells in the cell device within seconds.

About the BMZ Group

The BMZ Group is a global player in the production of cross-industry lithium-ion system solutions. The group is headquartered in Germany and has additional production facilities in China, Poland and the USA, as well as subsidiaries in Japan, the UK and France. In addition, there are research and development sites worldwide. Investments of over EUR 150 million since 2018 have doubled and in some cases even tripled production capacities. Around 3,000 employees work for the BMZ Group worldwide.

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