



## **ibg acquires majority stake in SORTING Solutions s.r.o.**

*German non-destructive testing material specialist acquires ball testing experts from Czech Republic*

**Ebermannstadt, January 10, 2019** - The Nordwind Capital portfolio company ibg Prüfcomputer GmbH, one of the leading international specialists for non-destructive eddy current testing of metal components, acquired a majority stake in SORTING Solutions s.r.o. in Bilina (Czech Republic) with effect of December 20, 2018. With this transaction, ibg expands its product portfolio with market-leading solutions for testing bearing balls.

As a new member of the ibg Group, which is represented in 35 countries including offices in Germany, Switzerland and the USA as well as an extensive worldwide partner network, SORTING Solutions will continue to develop its activities and product offerings under the proven leadership of its four founders. The Czech company can benefit from the integration into the existing ibg sales and service activities and thus further develop its presence in North America and Europe.

Joint development and the additional production site in the Czech Republic will open up new opportunities for the ibg Group to offer adapted equipment and system solutions for non-destructive material testing in a wide variety of markets from a single source.

"We certainly hope for new business opportunities through the merger with our partner ibg, especially in the field of high-end ball bearings. In particular, we are expecting new inquiries from aerospace and railway technology manufacturers as well as an increasingly growing business in the area of highly stressed ball bearings for wind turbines. In addition, ibg's worldwide sales and service network offers us new opportunities to support our customers even more intensively on site. Together with ibg's specialists, we can accelerate the further development of our products, especially with regard to new technologies and capabilities," explains Libor Tannert, Managing Director and co-founder of SORTING Solutions s.r.o..

"For some time now, we have seen a strong growing demand for solutions for grinding burn testing, not only among our existing customers in the bearing industry, who have been successfully using ibg products for hardness testing of their balls for years. The combination of our highly developed eddy current testing technology with the sophisticated system solutions of SORTING Solutions offers various new short-term possibilities. In addition, the four founders around Libor Tannert and their team will definitely enrich our ibg world with their extensive experience, relationships and ideas in eddy current testing technology. This is a factor that should not be underestimated, especially in view of future developments." Wolfgang Korpus, CEO of the ibg Group, is convinced: "The acquisition will enable us to successfully develop and expand our business."



### **About SORTING Solutions:**

SORTING Solutions s.r.o. was founded in 2005 and follows the tradition of the legendary optical and precision mechanics industry in the northern Czech Republic. Under the product brand AVIKO, established in the 1960s by the predecessor company Somet, SORTING Solutions now offers an extensive portfolio of devices and systems for the automated testing of steel balls for technically demanding ball bearing applications in the 6th development generation. Under the leadership of its four founders, the company is today one of two world market leaders with a focus on the fast-growing Asian market, where approx. 80% of all ball testing systems are produced by SORTING Solutions. Partners and customers from the automotive, aerospace, railway and wind power sectors in more than 15 countries rely on the company's expertise to reliably rule out defects such as cracks, damage or shape deviations as well as incorrect hardness conditions by non-destructive testing of their ball production. [www.sorting-solutions.com](http://www.sorting-solutions.com)

### **About ibg Group:**

For more than 30 years, the ibg Group has been setting technological standards as one of the world's leading manufacturers of eddy current testing equipment and systems for non-destructive testing (NDT). ibg Prüfcomputer GmbH, headquartered in Ebermannstadt, Upper Franconia (Germany), with its subsidiaries ibg NDT Systems Corp., Farmington Hills (MI, USA) and ibg Swiss AG, Stans (Switzerland) and with the help of a competent partner network, serves customers from a wide range of industries (e.g. in the automotive, electrical, wind energy and aviation industries) in over 35 countries. With its solutions for non-destructive crack, grinder burn and microstructure testing of metallic components, the ibg Group generates approx. 60% of its sales in North America and Asia. [www.ibgndt.de](http://www.ibgndt.de)

### **About Nordwind Capital:**

Nordwind Capital invests indefinitely in fast-growing and profitable companies with interesting growth prospects. Typical investment situations are the expansion of the investor base for risk diversification of the previous owner, the injection of further growth capital up to the complete acquisition of a company within the framework of succession planning. [www.nordwindcapital.com](http://www.nordwindcapital.com)