



PRESS RELEASE

Franke Holding AG
Franke-Strasse 2
Postfach 230
4663 Aarburg
Switzerland

Telephone +41 62 787 3131
www.franke.com

Franke opens state-of-the-art production facility for colored synthetic sinks in Slovakia

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Franke Group has consolidated global synthetic sink production in its Franke Kitchen Systems division. The new state-of-the-art production facility and Competence Center are located in Strečno, Slovakia. The total investment in the construction of the new site amounts to approx. CHF 42 million. Production commenced on June 28, 2018.

With the new synthetic sinks facility, Franke Kitchen Systems will improve distribution and logistics globally, providing considerable benefits to its customers. Capacity and efficiency gains in the production process will help the division achieve far greater flexibility, faster response times and an even broader range of sinks. Patrik Wohlhauser, Franke Group CEO and interim Head of the Franke Kitchen Systems division, noted: "There is a clear market trend toward colored sinks, which is reflected in our sales figures posting double-digit growth rates. Colored sinks made from the Fraganite and Tectonite composites are therefore a strategically important product segment for Franke Kitchen Systems."

Franke Slovakia s.r.o. is located in Strečno (Žilina region) in northern Slovakia and consists of three buildings. In addition to the main building, which spans an area of 18,000 square meters, the site features two separate buildings for storing chemicals. The CHF 42.4 million construction project including machinery comes with environmentally friendly wastewater treatment and energy recovery systems, for instance during dust extraction, compressed air generation and in the cooling units. A total of 300 people are employed at Strečno.

Strečno is a model site for Franke Group's industry 4.0 roadmap. The site is one of the world's most modern production facilities for Fraganite and Tectonite sinks. Precise controls for material recipes and mixtures, a fully automatic raw material feed to the Fraganite production cells and flexible, fully

automated robot-operated sink processing (one-piece flow) represent the state of the art. The Strečno facility is also a center for research and development, thereby continuing to drive innovation at Franke Kitchen Systems.

***Franke** belongs to Artemis Group and is a world leading provider of solutions and equipment for residential kitchens and bathrooms, public/private washrooms, the professional foodservice sector, and coffee preparation. Franke Group operates worldwide and employs around 9,000 people in 40 countries, generating sales of over CHF 2.1 billion.*

Contact

Gabriele Hepp
Head of Communications
Franke Management AG

T +41 62 787 3358

M +41 79 108 3225

E gabriele.hepp@franke.com