

## Press release

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THEVA Dünnschichttechnik GmbH

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### THEVA divests coating business to Ceraco

Ismaning, July 13, 2012 · Effective May 31, 2012 THEVA divested and sold its HTS wafer coating operations to the start-up company Ceraco. Ceraco was founded by Robert Semerad, former COO of THEVA's coating unit, who will be managing Ceraco as CEO.

Located on the THEVA premises, Ceraco is an independent unit, but closely linked to THEVA and will be operating the former THEVA HTS wafer production line. Robert Semerad explains: "Essentially, apart from the name change our customers won't experience any difference. The transition has been very smooth without any interruption of production and the HTS material supply is assured through our established distribution network of representatives worldwide".

Ceraco will follow in THEVA's footsteps as market leader in HTS wafer coating. Besides HTS wafer coating and the distribution of bulk HTS material, Ceraco is also developing ceramic coatings for a variety of other applications from fuel cells to special sensors.

The transaction is part of a re-orientation of THEVA. THEVA has successfully raised capital from financial investors recently and will focus on coated conductor development and equipment manufacturing in the future.

"For more than ten years THEVA has been developing a proprietary coated conductor production technology. Now we have clear signs from the market that within this decade coated conductors can become a commodity product", says CEO Werner Prusseit. "However, product cost will be of key importance for the market development. The dominant cost drivers are processing and yield, therefore simplicity, reliability, and automation of the equipment will make the difference. With a long tradition in both HTS materials and equipment design, THEVA is unique within the superconductor industry. I'm convinced that a clear focus on manufacturing will lead to the necessary breakthroughs needed to meet the cost targets."



#### **About THEVA Dünnschichttechnik GmbH**

Since 1996, THEVA has been developing flexible HTS coated conductors for power engineering. Thanks to proprietary, independent technology access and a broad portfolio of patents, THEVA is taking a leading role in coated conductor technology. The company is backed by a team of experienced development engineers and technicians. THEVA designs and builds specialized equipment and components for physical coating, and is a leader in quality control of superconductor coatings. THEVA instruments have become the worldwide standard for HTS quality control. Its headquarters is located in Ismaning near Munich. The company has sales representatives in Asia and the US.

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#### **About Ceraco ceramic coating GmbH**

The start-up Ceraco has acquired THEVA's profitable HTS materials and coating business unit. Located on the THEVA premises, Ceraco is operating production equipment and using distribution channels established for many years.

Besides HTS coatings for electronics, high frequency and medical technology, Ceraco is developing ceramic coatings in general for a variety of other applications, from fuel cells to special sensors.

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#### **About superconductors**

High temperature superconductors (HTS) are materials which conduct electric current without losses at liquid nitrogen temperatures. The current carrying capacity of HTS coated conductors is more than a hundred times that of conventional copper wire. They allow construction of extremely efficient electrical devices, which are significantly more compact and light-weight than conventional equipment.