

## **Austria's sole battery manufacturer produces sustainable, environment-friendly starter batteries**

**Banner possesses one of Europe's most modern battery plants and sustainability and environmental protection represent cornerstones of its corporate philosophy. Accordingly, the starter battery manufacturer attaches particular importance to the provision of the market with sustainable battery systems, which will constitute a central element in the mobility of tomorrow.**

Leonding, 23 October 2019. Andreas Bawart, Banner's Commercial CEO, is at pains to stress that, "As a lead processing company, we bear an especially large responsibility to both humans and the natural world. Therefore, our research and production takes place in accordance with the highest quality standards and environmentally compatible procedures."

### **Full power for eco-friendly mobility**

Banner is a family-owned company and a founder member of the Starter Battery Environmental Forum (UFS). In this capacity it relies upon a closed product cycle that extends from manufacture to recycling, as well as continual improvements, minimisation and prevention with regard to environmental impact. The heart of the production process is formed by the employment of 98 per cent recycled lead and 80 per cent of battery box material consists of polypropylene recycle. In addition, since 2015 the company's entire electricity needs have been supplied by renewable energy sources and 60 per cent of the power employed is used for battery charging. As a result of innovative manufacturing procedures, Banner batteries demonstrate a recycling quota of virtually 100 per cent and for many years the company has invested several million euros annually in environmental protection measures. These include activities aimed at reducing or avoiding emissions and noise, as well as spending on work safety.

### **Banner batteries have a higher recycling ratio than glass or paper**

A well-established recycling system with the highest collection ratio of all the recyclable goods on the market means that Banner's lead-acid batteries represent a model of resource efficiency and sustainability. Indeed, Banner started to recycle used batteries many years ago and the reprocessed material is then returned to the new product manufacturing chain. Workshops and retailers provide new batteries and in return used batteries are placed in special containers for collection by Banner. Valuable

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raw materials such as lead, sulphuric acid and polypropylene thus re-enter the production cycle. In concrete terms, during recent years the Starter Battery Environmental Forum (UFS), with Banner Batterien Österreich GmbH as a founder member, has collected more than twenty million used vehicle batteries. These contain the raw materials that include approximately 200,000 t of lead, which is virtually entirely recycled by a specialist Austria company. Consequently, this metal has the highest collection rate of all the recyclable goods on the market and in other words, outstrips glass or paper. Moreover, as a lead processing company, Banner takes its environmental responsibilities extremely seriously and employs treated lead from the recycling process.

### **Heightened employee safety**

For many decades, Banner has accepted an obligation to ensure safety and protect health and the environment. Strict guidelines that are continually modified in line with the latest findings offer optimum safeguards for company employees, neighbours, customers, consumers and nature alike. In line with their assignments, personnel are provided with the appropriate protective equipment and receive comprehensive safety instructions and training. Regular health checks by an occupational physician also serve to ensure danger-free, day-to-day working.

### **Captions**

**Photo1.** The circular Banner recycling system

**Photo 2.** Andreas Bawart, the Banner GmbH CEO

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## **Banner at a glance**

*Banner GmbH is an innovative, steadily expanding producer of top quality starter batteries. The company, which is based in Linz-Leonding, Austria, has been manufacturing batteries for all types of vehicles since 1937. The family-owned firm, which is headed by Andreas Bawart and Thomas Bawart, employs a workforce of around 810 across Europe. Banner produces and sells over 4.8 million starter batteries annually and thus numbers among the oldest, most experienced and important brands in the battery production field. The company's battery production plant is one of the most modern and environment-friendly in Europe, and environmental protection is a vital element in Banner's corporate philosophy. In addition, the company is a founder member of the Starter Battery Environmental Forum (UFS) in Austria and sees its processing of lead as demanding a special degree of responsibility. Research and production take place in accordance with the most stringent quality standards and employ environment-friendly procedures.*

*Banner's starter battery production is characterised by a closed cycle, which extends from manufacture to recycling and through continual improvement minimises and prevents environmental impact. Banner batteries are used for the first fitting of numerous models from Audi, BMW, Caterpillar, Jungheinrich, Kässbohrer, Liebherr, Mercedes, Mitsubishi, Porsche, SEAT, Volvo and VW. A company network of sales companies in thirteen countries provides retailer support and in addition Banner products are sold in more than 60 European, African and Asian states via direct importers. Future-oriented technology and outstanding quality underline the international reputation of these exemplary products with "buffalo power", which are also characterised by the Banner logo.*

*Further information is available at [bannerbatterien.com](http://bannerbatterien.com)*

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