

# Press release

Tuesday, 11 April 2017

## Modern technology for high recycling volumes

### Ready for the Packaging Act: State Minister Franz Untersteller visits the ALBA waste sorting plant in Walldürn

+++ District administrator Dr Achim Brötel and Mayor Markus Günther accompany the State Minister +++

+++ Chairman of the ALBA Group Axel Schweitzer: “Private sector investments are the guarantor for the achievement of ambitious recycling goals” +++

Berlin/Walldürn. Today the State Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy Management, Franz Untersteller, visited the ALBA Recycling GmbH plant for the processing of recyclables in Walldürn. Mr. Untersteller toured the facility with the District Administrator of Neckar-Odenwald Dr Achim Brötel and the Mayor of the town of Walldürn Markus Günther. Accompanied by Dr. Eric Schweitzer, CEO of the ALBA Group, the politicians were able to admire the high standards at the innovative plant at which ALBA Recycling GmbH – a subsidiary of the environmental services provider and recycling specialist the ALBA Group – processes approximately 200,000 tonnes of used packaging, as collected under the dual system, per year.

“The sorting technology here at the location of Walldürn is the most modern in Europe. Thanks to its continuous further development and modernisation, it is ideally positioned to fulfil the high-volume requirements of the pending Packaging Act in Germany,” **explained Dr Eric Schweitzer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ALBA Group.** “Private sector investment in technology and know-how of the kind that we can see here are of decisive importance for maintaining Germany’s leading position in the recycling sector. Only in this way it will be possible to achieve the ambitious goals in the area of raw materials efficiency and recycling.”

“The recycling of waste packaging saves resources and therefore makes a key contribution to environmental protection. Therefore, it is not only a good idea, it is also right to set down ambitious recycling goals and to work hard to ensure that they are achieved,” highlighted **Franz Untersteller, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy Management of the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg.** “Recycling quotas alone are not enough, however, it is more important to focus on the recycling capability of the packaging materials during their actual development,” said the Minister, appealing to the manufacturing sector. Mr Untersteller believes there to be a considerable need for further work in this area – an area in which the new Germany-wide Packaging Act has regrettably fallen short.

The Walldürn sorting plant opened in 2008 and has been subject to continuous further technical development ever since. It is one of four ultramodern production plants for recyclables to be owned and managed by ALBA Recycling GmbH, and combines the latest environmental technology with the 50 years’ know-how of ALBA. Recyclable material

separators sort the waste materials which arrive at the plant into different fractions, such as plastics and metals. The latest technology enables rapid and flexible responses to changes in the materials that arrive at the plant for processing. The recyclables which are gained satisfy the highest standards of quality, and following their sorting they are compressed into bales to enable their reuse as valuable raw materials.

#### **About ALBA:**

Next to Interseroh, ALBA is one brand under the umbrella of the ALBA Group. The ALBA Group operates with a total of about 7,500 employees within Germany, Europe and Asia. With an annual turnover of approx. 2.2 billion Euros (2015) ALBA Group is one of the leading recycling and environmental services companies as well as raw material providers worldwide. In 2015 alone ALBA Group saved almost 5.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gases compared to primary production and at the same time about 51.8 million tonnes of primary raw materials through its recycling activities.

Further information on ALBA Group can be found at [www.albagroup.de](http://www.albagroup.de). All press releases of the ALBA Group may be subscribed to via RSS feed at [www.albagroup.de/presse](http://www.albagroup.de/presse).

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#### **Media contact:**

Susanne Jagenburg  
Press Spokesperson ALBA Group  
Phone: +49 30 35182-5080 or +49 170 7977003  
[Susanne.Jagenburg@albagroup.de](mailto:Susanne.Jagenburg@albagroup.de)

ALBA Group plc & Co. KG  
Knesebeckstraße 56-58  
10719 Berlin  
Germany  
Tel: +49 30 35182-3260