

Strong Arguments Against the Theory that Webasto is Source of Coronavirus Infections in Italy

No infected employees, no locations close to Milan, no travels since end of January 2020

Stockdorf / Munich – March 10, 2020 – Webasto, one of the 100 top automotive suppliers worldwide, contradicts claim to be responsible for infections in Italy. “There are too many facts against this theory some media spread these days,” says Dr. Holger Engelmann, Chairman of the Management Board, Webasto SE.

In late January and early February 2020, some Webasto employees in Stockdorf (Germany) and Shanghai (China) were tested positive on the Coronavirus. All these colleagues have already been treated successfully and released from the hospitals, the ones in Germany by the end of February. Nor one of the infected colleagues, neither persons defined as contact group category 1, did travel to Italy since January 27, 2020.

Webasto closed its headquarters from January 29 until February 12 on its own initiative as a precaution to prevent the further spread of the virus. During that time, no Webasto employee was allowed to travel anywhere. There is an ongoing debate on the original source of the virus in Italy especially in the Italian media involving medical professionals from Italy, Germany and the U.S. According to media reports, the first patient in Italy made his first appearance at a hospital in Milan on February 18, 2020. This was three weeks after the closure of the Webasto headquarters in Stockdorf (Germany) – and thus outside the coronavirus incubation period of 14 days.

“The outbreak of the virus at our headquarters in Germany understandably created concerns among the public. But, in close cooperation with the health authorities, it appears we have been able to interrupt the chain of infection within our company thanks to the rapid and decisive action we have taken. This has also been confirmed by scientific experts and the German health authorities”, explains Dr. Holger Engelmann, Chairman of the Management Board of Webasto SE. One indication that the spread of the virus at Webasto has been stopped: Until today, there are no other Webasto colleagues at any other location that have been tested positive.

Webasto in Italy

Webasto has two sites in Italy: Webasto has two sites in Italy: one based in Molinella, close to Bologna, is operating in the development production and sales of cooling systems for different types of vehicles, and one based in Venaria Reale (Turin), active in the production of car roof systems. Webasto has no location near Codogno, as erroneously reported by the press. In the past there had been a Webasto office in Colturano, close to Milan, but it was closed nine years ago.

Hygiene standards were raised at all Webasto sites worldwide after the first cases of Coronavirus became known. Furthermore, the two Webasto locations in Italy have been applying all measures provided by the Italian Ministry of Health, as well as the provisions of the Government Decrees, to contain the spread of the virus and continue to operate as usual

without any interruption. All Italian Webasto employees are in good health condition and no Coronavirus case has been recorded.

Webasto continues to keep its employees worldwide up to date on current developments about the Coronavirus infection. For example, new information from the authorities on risk areas and recommendations for travel activities are shared via e-mail and the intranet as well as displays and notices at the locations. Business travels to and from China is temporarily suspended until further notice. For the risk areas in China, South Korea, Italy and Iran defined by the Robert Koch Institute, the company's internal regulation applies that employees can only take planned business travels with the exceptional approval of the management.

* * *

About Webasto:

The Webasto Group is a global innovative systems partner to almost all automobile manufacturers and among the top 100 suppliers in this industry sector. The company's product portfolio comprises a broad range of roof and heating systems for every type of vehicle and all drive types as well as battery systems and charging solutions. Moreover, Webasto has a strong position in the aftermarket providing dealers and end customers with customized solutions and services relating to thermo management and electromobility. In 2018 the company generated sales of 3.4 billion euros and had over 13,000 employees at more than 50 locations (with over 30 of these being manufacturing plants). The headquarters of the company, founded in 1901, is located in Stockdorf near Munich (Germany).

For more information please visit www.webasto-group.com / www.twitter.com/WebastoGroup

Media Contact:

Webasto Group
Nadine Schian
Vice President Corporate Communications
Phone.: +49 89 85794-52250
E-Mail: nadine.schian@webasto.com

Antje Zientek
Group Manager Corporate Communications
Phone: +49 89 85794-55832
E-Mail: antje.zientek@webasto.com