



Press release

Pierhor-Gasser acquires ISO 13485 certification and demonstrates the opportunity to transfer technology between the watchmaking and medical sectors.

After two years of hard work, Pierhor-Gasser— the Vaud-based company and member of the Acrotec Group—has just received its ISO 13485 certification. This recognition means the company will now be able to deal with requests from medical device companies.

Ecublens, February 1, 2021: With more than 200 years of industrial history, mainly serving the watchmaking industry, Pierhor-Gasser is well known for its mastery of machining single synthetic crystals such as ruby, sapphire and spinel, as well as technical ceramics, with remarkable precision of a few microns. This unique expertise allows the company to achieve surface finishes down to a few nanometers.

This in-depth knowledge has attracted the attention of major medical equipment companies, particularly regarding ruby insulators used in pacemakers. "Notably, we were contacted by a world-leading American company who was interested in this mastery of synthetic monocrystalline stone machining," explains Jean-Michel Uhl, CEO of Pierhor-Gasser.

Because of these demands and the medical device industry's requirements, Pierhor-Gasser worked for two years to acquire the ISO 13485 certification, receiving it at the beginning of January 2021. "Our teams are really pleased," said Jean-Michel Uhl. "Just over a year after getting the ISO 9001 certification, we are taking a further step that guarantees our customers the high standards of our quality and safety management systems for our medical device components."

Pierhor-Gasser is one of the very first Swiss synthetic stones manufacturers to acquire this certification.

The certification provides a significant competitive advantage for the company, which guarantees compliance with regulatory requirements, control of specific processes, risk

analysis throughout the product development and control and traceability of each component for medical devices delivered to our customers.

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About Pierhor-Gasser SA: Based in Ecublens (VD), Pierhor-Gasser SA's unique expertise originates from the merging of skills from Pierhor SA and Gasser-Ravussin SA in 2018, with the support of the Acrotec Group. This new independent company pools more than 200 years of know-how in the watchmaking industry while opening up to international markets outside of the watchmaking industry. In addition, Acrotec guarantees a 100% Swiss-made product. The primary materials machined are synthetic monocrystals such as ruby, sapphire and spinel, as well as technical ceramics. The materials have the distinctive characteristic of having hardnesses ranging from 1,200 to 2,000 Vickers. Mastery of the manufacturing techniques developed means accuracies of a few microns can be achieved. Pierhor-Gasser is also able to machine holes 0.05 mm in diameter or carry out external cylindrical grinding of 5mm parts. These same processes enable surface finishes of a few nanometers to be achieved, as is required by the systems that use them. www.acrotec.ch/en/companies/pierhor-gasser/

About the Acrotec Group :

Acrotec is an independent group created by micromechanics professionals. Its main objective is to be a reference subcontractor by offering a wide range of manufacturing processes for precision components. Its strategy is both to provide "Swiss Made" quality products to the entire watch industry as well as to the automotive, electronics, medical, jewelry and aeronautics industries. Acrotec distinguishes itself by the extent of the know-how exercised under the same roof, in **precision machining** (CNC turning, CNC multispindle turning, cam-operated turning, 3 & 5 axis milling, micro-turning, transfer and machining of precious metals), by **support processes** (surface treatment, cutting, assembly, heat treatment, decoration and laser engraving) and by **specific processes** (realization of components by UV-Liga, wire erosion/sinking, machining of synthetic stones, lamination, shaping of springs, realization of machines and tools and engraving on silicon - DRIE). Currently, the Group has more than 1,200 employees. www.acrotec.ch/en/