

Arkivator and Exir join forces

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The two successful and privately-owned system suppliers Arkivator and Exir will be merging on 1 October. The merger will take place through an exchange of shares. The parent company IGC Industrial Growth Company AB, which owns Arkivator Holding AB, and Exirgruppen AB, which owns the Exir companies, will become joint owners of Arkivator Holding AB. The combined group is expected to generate a turnover of SEK 1.1 billion and will have 600 employees, with operations in Sweden, Hungary and China.

Arkivator AB has 370 employees and a turnover of approximately SEK 750 million, with operations in Falköping (head office), Tidaholm, Gothenburg, Växjö and Kunshan, China. The company is organised into three business areas: Arkivator Industry (which specialises in machining), Arkivator Telecom (which develops and manufactures telecommunications products) and Arkivator Machine Systems (which develops and manufactures machines for the packaging industry).

Exir has 230 employees and a turnover of approximately SEK 350 million, with operations in Värnamo (head office), Hörby, Stockholm and Mezőkövesd, Hungary. Exir consists of Exir AB (which carries out machining), Exir Broadcasting and Telecom AB (which develops and markets high-quality products for the broadcasting and telecommunications industry) and Exir Hungary Zrt. (which carries out machining and assembly).

Arkivator has operations in Sweden and Kunshan, China. "We have been looking for a facility in Eastern Europe for a number of years now, in order to boost our international presence and our competitiveness," explains Anders Hultmark, Group CEO of the merged Arkivator and Exir. "Automated line production is well-suited to Sweden, while production with a higher proportion of salary costs is more profitable in Hungary. As a result of the merger, Arkivator will become a more international and more competitive company in a tough market."

"We at Exir have operated extremely effectively in Hungary for twelve years now," adds Jonas Idsäter. "We will be expanding the factory in Hungary by 5,000 m² and investing around SEK 40 million in machinery, starting in November. We now have a unique combination of Swedish and Hungarian culture, with orderliness, all certification in place, and good profitability. We have also been named Supplier of the Year by both ABB and BT."

The group will continue to be operated as three business areas. Within the machining segment, the companies complement each other when it comes to customers. "We see significant advantages with a presence in Eastern Europe, and we will be able to offer our customers a broader product portfolio." Within the Telecom business area, the companies also complement each in terms of both products and customers. "The merger will mean a broader product portfolio and customer base for our telecommunications operations. For our packaging machinery operations, there will be no direct impact other than gaining strength internationally."

"The merger will enable us to achieve our vision of becoming a global system supplier, and we also expect to have a presence in India and South America within a few years," concludes Anders Hultmark.

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