

Spišská Nová Ves R&D Center Opening Interview with Secop Management

Spišská Nová Ves – Slovakia. May 31, 2022

On May 31, 2022 Secop officially announced the opening of a new R&D Center in Spišská Nová Ves, Slovakia. Secop decided to invest in a new R&D center to leverage the innovation and development capabilities thus strengthening those engineering skills available in the Gleisdorf, Flensburg, Zlaté Moravce, and Tianjin locations. This latest step is one of the key elements to sustaining the strategic plan designed by Secop, so we asked the Secop Management to explain the reasons behind this investment and review the core elements that connect this investment to the strategic plan.

Jan Ehlers / CEO and CCO: Strategic Pillars for Secop and the New R&D Center

Q: What are the strategic pillars that led to a further investment in R&D capabilities?

A: We continue to pursue our strategy plan design set out in 2020. Our core segments and our targets are well defined by our vision and mission, and we have segmented our capabilities to support the core segments: Light Commercial, Mobile Cooling, and Medical Refrigeration. In our plan, we have defined a road map for new products and solution, and also investments to support the infrastructure required to sustain this plan. In 2020, we opened our new R&D headquarters in Gleisdorf and since then have increased our capabilities to support core projects in our road map. In 2021, we invested in our new headquarters in Flensburg, where we set up a brand-new testing facility to enhance our application labs and support our initiatives to develop solutions and support customers in designing optimized and efficient cabinets. The new R&D Center in Spišská Nová Ves is another step in this journey: We plan to leverage more our development and engineering capabilities in Slovakia to support our product road map development and to leverage the synergies between development and engineering. We saw the opportunity to find and attract a group of skilled and competent engineers experienced in refrigeration located in the region. As a demonstration of being an agile and flexible company, we decided to invest in Spišská Nová Ves by creating an R&D Center in the area, instead of moving people far away from their home. We have other examples of agile and flexible solutions within our company with offices spread around the world. Our company is a mosaic of distributed competences, and we believe in people and in multicultural experiences. First and foremost, we invest in people and competences, and then we create assets and tools to support people in achieving their goals and handling projects in a flexible and effective way.

Fabricio Possamai / CTO: R&D Competences in Spišská Nová Ves

Q: Why establish an R&D Center in Slovakia?

A: In the area of Spišská Nová Ves we were able to find interesting competences and know-how, to support our development plans. We continuously work on new projects to expand our range of compressors and electronic controlled solutions, targeting new innovative solutions for light commercial, battery-driven, and medical applications. We focus our efforts on developing hydrocarbons refrigerants and efficient products using our core competences in hermetic compressors, electric motors and electronic controls for refrigeration optimized products. We aim to support our clients with green and efficient solutions, and we have an ambitious road map of developments to sustain our strategy in the different segments. That is why we decided to best utilize the know-how in the region of Spišská Nová Ves to support the development of light commercial solutions by attracting a team of people experienced in different areas to actively contribute to our development pipeline. A great number of skills are concentrated in the R&D Center in Spišská Nová Ves in the areas of thermodynamics, electrical motor, hermetic compressors, testing and approval of refrigeration solutions, refrigeration applications, project management, design to quality, engineering, to name a few. The new R&D Center has been fully integrated into the R&D global structure, where we can already count on distributed resources to support our projects with a worldwide team of engineers and a network of laboratories: Gleisdorf, Flensburg, Atlanta, Tianjin, Turkey, Zlaté Moravce, and now Spišská Nová Ves.

The team in Spišská Nová Ves will contribute to projects under development for commercial refrigeration and medical, a new generation of compressors to push our product platforms to new levels in terms of cooling performances, efficiency and reliability. Our road map includes projects for beverage, food retail, food service, medical, in addition to projects for mobile cooling applications.

Johannes Maerz / COO: Secop's Footprint and Focus on Slovakia

Q: Can you describe the footprint of Secop in Slovakia?

A: We have invested in manufacturing both in China and Slovakia to maximize and develop our footprint capabilities. China is today mainly, but not only, focused on battery-driven compressors while Slovakia is mainly dedicated to commercial and medical refrigeration compressors. We have plans to develop more of our platforms in Slovakia to achieve optimum efficiency and flexibility in product manufacturing. During the pandemic period, we experienced the need for greater flexibility, faster reaction times, and improved support and service to our customers. To achieve these goals, it is important to have products designed to guarantee synergies between platforms and to count on excellent components from reliable suppliers. We decided to invest in engineering resources to assure smooth and fast transitions from development to production and to guarantee that we have a good set of qualified suppliers able to sustain our production with flexibility and reliability. We have two new products and production lines planned to be released in Q3 and Q4 2022, with more to come in the pipeline, so we decided to attract new talent and resources and to support our dense and ambitious development plan.

Norbert Brath / Slovakia Plant Director and Quality Director: Investments in Slovakia

Q: Can you explain the synergies of the R&D Center with the Footprint in Slovakia?

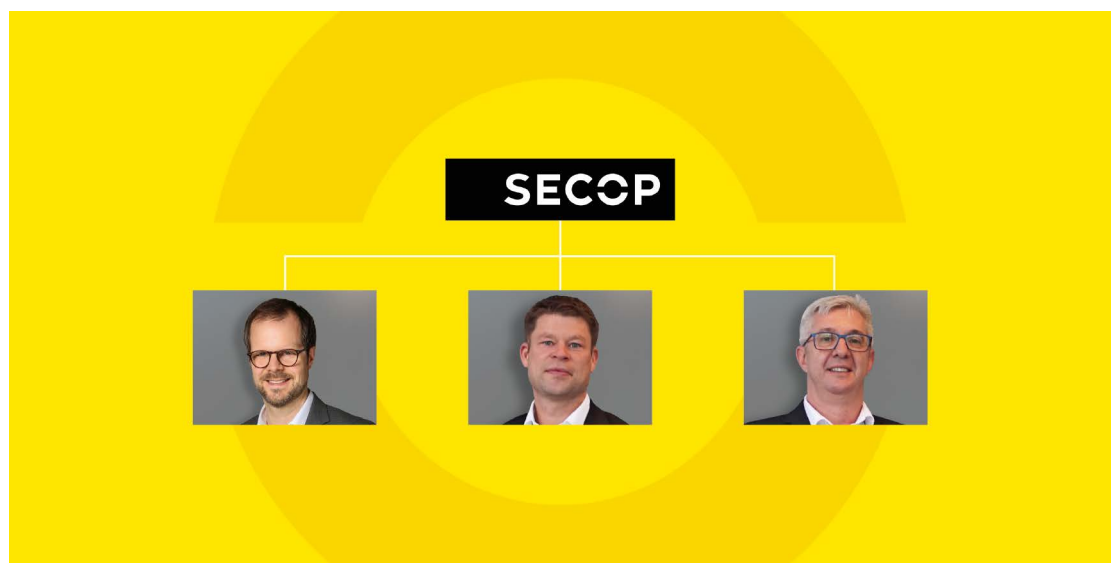
A: In Spišská Nová Ves we were able to attract talent to enhance the know-how available at Secop, with a good mix of competences and experiences in compressor design, light commercial refrigeration, design to quality, and product engineering. The region of Spišská Nová Ves has a long history in refrigeration and the new R&D team has a lot of experience and can support Secop's development plans. The office in Spišská Nová Ves will offer strong synergies with the operation facility in Zlaté Moravce, with the aim to accelerate time to market and design to quality of our new products targeting production in Slovakia, and much more. Slovakia is home to the production of most of the commercial range platforms, and various projects we already have in the pipeline are connected to the expansion of these platforms to support more applications and to offer enhanced performances to customers. One of the major objectives we have is a strong connection between R&D and operations, to guarantee excellent design to quality and supplier development, the best approach to assure that good innovative solutions are properly engineered and supported for mass production.

About Secop:

Secop is the expert for advanced hermetic compressor technologies and cooling solutions in commercial refrigeration. We develop high performance stationary and mobile cooling solutions for leading international commercial refrigeration manufacturers and are the first choice when it comes to leading hermetic compressors and electronic controls for refrigeration solutions for light commercial and DC-powered applications.

The group has 1,350 employees worldwide with production sites in Slovakia and China as well as research centers in Germany, Austria, Slovakia, China, and the USA including a dedicated motor competence center (MCC) in Germany to support the development of electronics and motor controls.

Secop has belonged to the ESSVP IV fund since September 2019.



From left to right: Johannes Maerz, Dr. Jan Ehlers, Fabricio Possamai

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