



BEHR AMERICA AUTOMOTIVE SALES TRIPLED LAST YEAR

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TROY, Mich. — Behr America posted major increases in sales and market share for its automotive engine-cooling and air-conditioning businesses in North America last year.

— Behr America's 2002 calendar-year sales nearly tripled, increasing from \$230 million to \$684 million, — reported Hans Lange, the company's president. — Behr's acquisition of the Dayton Thermal Products business from DaimlerChrysler was a major factor, but our sales excluding the Dayton operations were also up by 16 percent from the previous year. —

By year end, Behr's Dayton facility had generated sales of more than \$415 million and Behr added orders from General Motors and Ford to its DaimlerChrysler business, Lange said.

— The Dayton acquisition has catapulted Behr into the top league of global automotive suppliers, — noted Horst Geidel, chairman of Behr GmbH & Co. KG. — It has increased Behr's share in the US market to 12 percent and helped place the company among the North American auto industry's top suppliers. —

Behr's worldwide sales in 2002 increased by about 25 percent to \$2.7 billion, Geidel said. Profit from business activities increased to \$62 million, in part due to the positive results in North America.

Behr will continue making capital investments in the United States in 2003, with a focus on the new technical center and wind tunnel in Troy and Behr Dayton Thermal Products, according to Geidel.

Geidel also reported that Behr is working on a variety of new technologies, including an evolutionary air conditioning system using carbon dioxide as an environmentally-friendly alternative to the refrigerant currently in use.

With headquarters in Troy, Michigan, Behr America is a leading supplier of engine cooling and air conditioning systems to the automobile industry. The company has 3,000 employees at facilities in Troy and Webberville, Michigan; Dayton, Ohio; Charleston, South Carolina; Canton, South Dakota, and Fort Worth, Texas.

Behr America's parent company, Behr GmbH & Co. KG, based in Germany, has been supplying automobile makers for nearly 100 years. Group sales in the 2002 business year came to approximately \$2.7 billion. Currently Behr employs more than 16,000 people in 25 production facilities in Europe, North and South America, South Africa and India.



Additional information is at www.behrgroup.com.

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Media Contacts:

Indira Sadikovic
Behr America, Inc.
Phone: 248.743.3771
E-mail: Indira.sadikovic@us.behrgroup.com

Janet Krol
AutoCom Associates
Phone: 248.647.8621
E-Mail : jkrol@usautocom.com



Contact Information

Janet Krol

Autocom Associates

<http://www.usautocom.com>

248.647.8621

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