

For innovative and efficient materials:

## VACUUMSCHMELZE wins its first iF material award

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**Hanau / Frankfurt – VACUUMSCHMELZE GmbH & Co. KG (Hanau) was entered for the iF awards of the International Forum Design in Hanover for the first time in 2009 – and promptly won one of the coveted awards in the ‘material’ category. The materials submitted are evaluated on the basis of their innovation, the environmental impact of their manufacture and use and their potential for development. The VAC entry was the contact spring alloy DURACON® 17A, which features extreme hardness, minimum bending radii, high temperature operation and outstanding relaxation behaviour without subsequent age-hardening.**

DURACON® 17A's extremely low bending radii offers new possibilities for connectors and contacts to economize on materials and space. In addition, contact elements made of DURACON® can be used in high temperature applications up to 250 °C making it suitable for connectors to be used in close proximity to combustion engines and for hybrid technologies in the automotive sector. DURACON® 17A is also a suitable substitute for CuBe parts. Being completely free from beryllium, lead or other potentially dangerous additions, the alloy is a highly environmentally responsible choice.



material  
award

2010 ■



A total of 89 materials were submitted in the "material" category from 66 producers across 18 countries. From these, 15 entries were selected to receive the 2010 iF material award at a public jury session. The award-winners were announced during this year's CeBIT and the ceremony, with an exhibition of the entries, was held on 20 April 2010 at Hannover Messe exhibition centre.

Correct choice of materials is a critical factor in the realization of high-quality, sustainable product design: efficient use of innovative materials is an increasingly important element in the manufacture of today's most advanced products.

**VACUUMSCHMELZE GmbH & Co. KG**

VACUUMSCHMELZE (VAC), based in Hanau, designs, produces and markets advanced materials, primarily magnetic materials but also materials with other properties, and related products. The company has a staff of 1,400. In 1914, the first vacuum furnace laid the foundation for today's VACUUMSCHMELZE. Industrial vacuum melting techniques for alloys have been in operation since 1923.

VAC today operates in over 40 countries, has annual sales of approximately 300 million euros and is the holder of over 600 patents, making it among the world's most highly innovative developers of advanced industrial materials.

VAC's range of products comprises a broad array of advanced semi-finished products, components, parts, modules and systems for use in a wide variety of fields and industries spanning watch-making and medical technology, regenerative energies, shipbuilding and telecommunications, and the automotive and aviation industries. VAC's custom solutions are developed in close collaboration with the customer, reflecting the company's expertise in materials and state-of-the-art production technology.

Find out more at [www.vacuumschmelze.com](http://www.vacuumschmelze.com)