

Press release**Décovi celebrates its 75th anniversary with significant growth and encouraging prospects**

After 75 years of history in the Jura, the screw machining company in Vicques continues to develop, hire, and envision a future building expansion thanks to a level of expertise that has won over the watchmaking market.

Vicques (Val Terbi, Jura), 31 March, 2022. In the presence of Mrs Rosalie Beuret Siess, Minister of Finance of the Canton of Jura; Claude-Alain Chapatte, Mayor of Val Terbi; François Billig, CEO of the Acrotec Group; Claude Chèvre, co-CEO of Décovi; and Cédric Chèvre, co-CEO of Décovi, the official ceremony took place today, marking the 75th anniversary of Décovi, which specialises in high-precision turning and machining.

In Vicques, the history of Décovi merges with that of the Chèvre family. It was in 1947 that Denis Chèvre, then aged 23, decided to go into the bar-turning business and transformed part of his father's farm into a workshop with his first three cam-type bar turning machines.

In 1985, Claude Chèvre, a young mechanical engineer, joined his father. Together, they set up Décovi in 1987, a contraction of "décolletage" and "Vicques", and its working area tripled. But it was in April 2000 that Décovi inaugurated its brand-new factory, having purchased the first plot of land in the new La Romaine industrial zone in Vicques.

One million Swiss-made oscillating weights produced each year

In 2008, Décovi made the first successful attempts at heavy-metal machining without having imagined that ten years later, oscillating weights would represent the most significant portion of its turnover, producing approximately one million parts each year. In 2009, the small family company was one of the first to join the Acrotec Group. Joining Acrotec enabled Décovi to build several successive extensions to the factory in 2011 and 2014, with 1,800 m² dedicated to oscillating weights.

At the beginning of 2022, Cédric Chèvre (Claude's son) was appointed co-CEO (with his father) of Décovi, the family business that he's so familiar with, ready to ensure the natural continuity and family succession until at least the company's centenary in 2047. By that time, Cédric will be 60.

Cédric's appointment as co-CEO is fitting. It comes at a time when Décovi has just passed the symbolic milestone of 100 employees and will for the first time in its history achieve a monthly turnover of over CHF 3 million.

Multiple certifications

Décovi owes its success to its business skills (mechanical engineers, bar turners, programmers, precision mechanics, quality controllers, etc.), which have been certified ISO 9001, 13,485 (medical) and 14,001 (environment). It also owes its success to its impressive inventory of

around 100 CNC modern machines: bar turning, turning, milling and 3 to 5-axis, decoration, laser-engraving, 3D printing. These machines are capable of very high-precision machining.

"Let's remember that in 1947," explains Claude Chèvre, "an average screw machining workshop was made up of about 20 machines driven by a single large motor placed at the end of the workshop. Today, a modern CNC machine is set up with 20 motors."

The Acrotec Group's mission is to maintain and support the valuable synergies between its companies in order to benefit its customers. For example, oscillating weights, which were initially only machined, decorated, laser-engraved and processed at Décovi, are now assembled and delivered, with their ball bearing produced by KIF Parchoc, another company in the Group.

Décovi's growth won't stop here. The outlook for orders from its main customers is positive, so much so that Décovi is looking at the possibility of acquiring new surfaces, new machines and new equipment in the short and medium-term, with a clear desire to remain at the forefront of innovation. This drive is demonstrated by the hiring of a young engineer from the EPFL for internal R&D. Décovi also plans to increase its workforce by 25 employees in the next three years.

A promising future

Décovi's development places a high demand on sustainability, in line with its values, which emphasise ESG standards and respect for the area and environment. More than 1,300 solar panels have been installed, and new equipment and machines are chosen according to their energy efficiency.

"After 75 years in business," says Claude Chèvre, "Décovi is firmly directed towards the future with numerous projects, well-filled order books, a loyal and optimistic customer base, an emerging diversification into medical technologies, competent and loyal employees, a well-established family succession, new technological expertise. It is a company that is very much in tune with its Jura territory, very much in tune with the times and conscious of its sustainability and social impact."

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About Décovi SA: Established in Vicques (Val Terbi, Jura), Décovi SA has been active in screw machining for more than 70 years. It is ISO 9001, ISO 13485 and 14001 certified and operates more than 100 latest-generation CNC machines, with a total of around a hundred employees. Décovi produces parts for watchmaking, medical, aeronautical and general industrial sectors. In addition to screw machining operations, it also produces complex milling parts on 3, 4 and 5-axis machines. Its experience and expertise have established the company as a key player in Switzerland. www.decovi.ch

About the Acrotec Group: Acrotec is an independent group created by micromechanics professionals. Its main objective is to be a reference subcontractor, offering a wide range of manufacturing processes for precision components. Its strategy is to provide "Swiss-made" quality products to the entire watchmaking industry, as well as to the automotive, electronic, medical, jewellery and aeronautical sectors. Acrotec is distinguished by its extensive expertise, cooperatively, **in precision machining** (CNC turning, CNC multi-spindle turning, cam turning, 3 & 5-axis milling, micro-turning, transfer and machining of precious metals), **by supporting processes** (surface treatment, cutting, assembly, heat treatment, finishing and laser engraving) and **by specific processes** (UV-Liga component production, wire erosion/sinking, synthetic stone machining, rolling, spring forming, machine and tool production and silicon engraving - DRIE). The Group currently employs over 1,500 people. www.acrotec.ch