

## **SGL Group successfully rolls out major industrial process for recycling hydrogen chloride**

- Energy savings of up to 45% compared with existing processes
- Patented process proves successful in practice at largest Chinese potassium producer Qinghai Salt Lake Industry Co., Ltd.

*Wiesbaden, September 6, 2017.* The recovery system for recycling and reusing hydrogen chloride (HCl) developed by SGL Group plays a major role in a new electrolytic smelting system from Chinese potassium producer Qinghai Salt Lake Industry Co., Ltd. (QSL). Successfully commissioned in the Chinese Province of Qinghai this year, the system produces magnesium with the lowest CO<sub>2</sub> values worldwide – supported by the patented solution from SGL Group, which consumes up to 45 percent less energy compared with standard processes.

“We decided to develop our new system based on a demand for greater energy savings,” states Oliver Seidel, Head of Process Technology, a division of SGL Group’s Business Unit Graphite Materials & Systems. “Now that the QSL melting system has been commissioned, we are extremely pleased to be able to demonstrate that our process works on an industrial scale.”

QSL is the largest potassium producer in China, producing both salts and magnesium, which are chemically bonded to salt from the Qinghai salt lake. Hydrogen chloride (HCl) is used to separate the magnesium from the salt and then prepare it for further processing. The system part supplied by SGL Group treats the contaminated HCl and returns it to the main process. The overall system consists of columns, heat exchangers, pumps and tanks made of the proven high-quality materials DIABON® graphite and POLYFLURON® PTFE.

### About the SGL Group – The Carbon Company

The SGL Group is a leading manufacturer worldwide of products and materials made from carbon. The extensive product portfolio ranges from carbon and graphite products, carbon fibers all the way through to composites. The SGL Group’s core expertise comprises the control of high-temperature technologies as well as the deployment of many years’ application and engineering know-how. This is used to exploit the company’s wide materials base. These carbon-based materials combine a number of unique material properties such as very good conductivity of electricity and heat, resistance to heat and corrosion as well as lightweight construction coupled with high firmness. The level of demand for the SGL Group’s high-performance materials and products is increasing due to the industrialization of the growth regions of Asia and Latin America and the ongoing substitution of traditional construction materials by new materials. The SGL Group’s products are deployed in the automotive and chemicals

industries as well as in the semiconductor, solar, LED industry segments and in the field of lithium-ion batteries. Carbon-based materials and products are also used in wind energy, aviation and space travel as well as in the defense industry.

**With 34 production locations in Europe, North America and Asia as well as a service network in over 100 countries, the SGL Group is an enterprise with a global orientation. In the 2016 financial year, approx. 4,000 employees generated 769.8 million euros in sales revenue. Its Head Office is based in Wiesbaden / Germany.**

*Further particulars on the SGL Group can be found in the Newsroom of the SGL Group at [www.sglgroup.com/press](http://www.sglgroup.com/press) and at [www.sglgroup.com](http://www.sglgroup.com).*

**Important note:**

To the extent that our press release contains forward-looking statements, the latter are based on information that is available at present and on our current forecasts and assumptions. Forward-looking statements, by their very nature, entail known as well as unknown risks and uncertainties that may lead to actual developments and events differing substantially from the forward-looking assessments. Forward-looking statements must not be understood to be guarantees. Instead, future developments and events depend on a large number of factors; they comprise various risks and imponderables and are based on assumptions that may possibly turn out not to be appropriate. These include unforeseeable changes to fundamental political, economic, legal and societal conditions, particularly in the context of our main customers' industries, such as electric steelmaking, the competitive situation, interest and exchange rate trends, technological developments as well as other risks and uncertainties. We perceive additional risks e.g. in pricing developments, unforeseeable events in the environment of companies acquired and Group member companies as well as in current cost savings programs from time to time. The SGL Group assumes no obligation and does not intend to adjust or otherwise update these forward-looking statements either.

Contact Corporate Communications:

Telephone +49 611 6029 100 / Fax +49 611 6029 101

E-mail: [press@sglgroup.com](mailto:press@sglgroup.com) / [www.sglgroup.com](http://www.sglgroup.com)