

Continental Celebrates Over Three Decades of Innovation and Sustainability at Its Lousado Tire Plant

- **Continental's Lousado plant marks over 30 years of growth, now with 3,000 employees and an annual production exceeding 18 million tires**
- **ISCC PLUS certification and production of the UltraContact NXT tire with up to 65% renewable materials started in 2023**
- **New Solution Center focuses on digital tire solutions and Industry 4.0, aiming to double its expert workforce by 2026 and bolstering the regional economy**

Lousado, Portugal, May 15, 2024. With a history dating back to its industrial kick-off in July 1990, the Lousado tire plant has become a cornerstone of Continental's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and excellence in tire production. The facility covers an impressive 389,494 square meters with an additional 409,656 square meters of external warehouse space, which equivalates to more than 104 standard football fields. The plant currently employs approximately 3,000 people who and consistently set benchmarks in the tire manufacturing industry. From producing a daily average of 4,769 tires in 1990 with 981 employees to surpassing 18 million tires in 2023, the plant has shown remarkable growth and productivity.

In recent years, Continental has made significant investments in the Lousado plant, including the introduction of agricultural tires in 2017 and Off the Road (OTR) tires in 2020. These expansions have not only diversified the product portfolio but have also contributed to the plant's status as one of the biggest employers in the region and Portugal's fourth-largest exporter.

The Lousado plant's product portfolio includes car tires ranging from 14 to 22 inches, featuring advanced technologies such as ContiSeal and ContiSilent, as well as tires for agricultural products. In 2019, the plant celebrated the production of the 15 millionth ContiSeal tire, a testament to Continental's pioneering spirit in tire technology.

Continental's dedication to sustainability has been further reinforced by the recent International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) PLUS received by the Lousado plant. The subject of the certification were the processes for the mass balance of raw materials. In the mass balance approach, fossil, renewable and recycled raw materials are mixed in existing systems and processes. Their quantities are tracked along the value chain and allocated to one or more initial products. The mass balance approach enables Continental to successively increase the proportion of sustainable materials in its products. It ensures that the proportion of certified sustainable materials can be precisely reported in the balance sheet.

The certification was the basis for the start of production of the UltraContact NXT, the most sustainable series tire on the market, with up to 65 percent renewable, recycled, and mass balance certified materials. The UltraContact NXT is currently manufactured exclusively in Lousado.

The plant's commitment to the future is also evident in its investment in photovoltaic panels and waste treatment areas, ensuring that operations not only meet today's demands but also contribute to a greener tomorrow.

Mr. Pedro Carreira, Plant Manager Lousado, said "As an example, some of our sustainability projects will be enlarged in the coming years; in fact, we want to continue to grow in our green façades and install the automatic loading system of curing presses to reduce the ergonomic aspects in that part of our plant".

Continental's Vision 2030 strategy has been a driving force behind the company's investments in Lousado, which have totalized around 150 million Euro in the last two years (or more than 200 in the last three years). These investments have been directed towards increasing passenger car tire production, expanding high-performance tire production, and ramping up the production of agricultural tires. As Continental continues to innovate and expand its operations in Lousado, the plant remains a symbol of the company's dedication to quality, sustainability, and the future of mobility.

Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2023, Continental generated sales of €41.4 billion and currently employs around 200,000 people in 56 countries and markets.

Tire solutions from the **Tires group sector** make mobility safer, smarter, and more sustainable. Its premium portfolio encompasses car, truck, bus, two-wheel, and specialty tires as well as smart solutions and services for fleets and tire retailers. Continental delivers top performance for more than 150 years and is one of the world's largest tire manufacturers. In fiscal 2023, the Tires group sector generated sales of 14 billion euros. Continental's tire division employs more than 56,000 people worldwide and has 20 production and 16 development sites.

Press contact

Arne Kouker
Media Relations Manager
Replacement Tires EMEA
Phone: +49 160 90 38 24 61
Email: arne.kouker@conti.de

Website	www.continental-tires.com
Press portal	www.continental.com/press-tires
Media center	continental.com/media-center