

emergency degassing, and then closes after the successful pressure equalization. The element not only ensures greater safety – it is also more robust than conventional solutions. During its development, DIAvent started out as a single product, but it has now become a complete product family for a wide array of potential uses. We have received numerous series orders from vehicle and battery manufacturers.


Freudenberg Performance Materials facilitates the transmission of clean energy with water blocking tapes that it produces for use in undersea cables. The newly developed materials for this application are indispensable for a successful energy transition. They ensure that high voltages can be reliably transported over great distances underwater from offshore wind turbines.

### **Investments**

Adjusted for acquisitions, investments in intangible and tangible assets as well as real estate held as a financial investment amounted to €401.5 million (previous year: €304.8 million.)

The Freudenberg Group has invested worldwide: Formed in April 2022, the new Business Group Freudenberg e-Power Systems has started to build up its production and assembly capacity for battery systems in Midland, USA. In Parets des Vallès, Spain, Freudenberg Sealing Technologies has begun building a state-of-the-art factory for the production of elastomer products for the auto industry. Vibracoustic has expanded production and assembly capacity for bellows in Europe, the USA, and Mexico. And Freudenberg Performance Materials has continued to invest in facilities for needle-punched nonwovens at its Škofja Loka production facility in Slovenia.

The investments in Germany come to €144.3 million (previous year: €88.0 million). Freudenberg Performance Materials expanded its factory for gas diffusion layers – key components for




fuel cells – at its Weinheim facility to meet future demand in the fast-growing market for the systems. Production is due to begin this summer.

Vibracoustic increased its capacity for the production of air suspension systems in Hamburg. EagleBurgmann launched modernization projects at the Innovation Center at its Wolfratshausen site and for the production of mechanical seals and other products in Eurasburg.

### **Portfolio**

In December 2022, the Freudenberg company SurTec Interna-



Freudenberg companies in Germany. That is roughly one-third higher than the figure for the previous year. In all, 351 people were in training programs in Germany alone. The company also provides training in 14 other countries.


### **Mobility: Preparing the battery and fuel cell businesses for the future**

Freudenberg products are driving forward-looking topics like the energy transition. The Freudenberg Group is investing in the mobility of the future – in battery, hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, along with high-tech components for commercial vehicles. The strategy is working, as shown by a sales increase of about 50 percent for components, for example.

Based on opportunities for growth, a new Business Group – Freudenberg e-Power Systems – was formed in April 2022. Building on its extensive experience and expertise in battery and fuel cell technologies, the company is offering emission-neutral energy systems for heavy-duty applications. About 100 experts are already working at Freudenberg's fuel cell technology center in Munich. The Business Group has achieved a milestone with the world's first type-tested methanol-fueled fuel cell system for the maritime sector. The system makes it possible for oceanic shipping to operate climate-neutrally, efficiently and safely.

Freudenberg e-Power Systems has also finalized a collaborative project with the automotive supplier ZF Friedrichshafen. The goal is to develop a fuel cell and batte





purchasing 100 percent green electricity. Other sites will follow in 2023. In Germany, the company's facilities in Berlin, Hamburg, Oberwihl and Emmerich are among its CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral facilities. During 2022, Freudenberg increased its share of electricity from renewable sources from 21 to 30 percent of its total electric power consumption.


### **Social commitment**

Freudenberg has been socially committed since its founding. With its "Education and Environment" program, its social involvement is being strengthened. The goal is to give people access to jobs and education while promoting environmental protection. Since the start of the program in 2015, the Freudenberg Group has provided €18 million to promote charitable projects and has funded 170 of them, including 40 in Europe.

Here's one way the funds are being used: Many children in Vietnam live in harsh social and economic conditions. Abandoned by their families or orphaned, they are on their own. SOS Children's Villages in Vietnam cares for children in these situations. Last year, Klüber Lubrication employees in Vietnam supported the work of SOS Children's Villages in Ben Tre and Da Lat in South Vietnam.

### **Outlook**

We can expect economic and political uncertainties to continue. Challenges and risks are emerging, sometimes exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and the COVID 19 pandemic. They include the energy supply, raw material bottlenecks, price increases, suppliers' delivery problems, and labor shortages. To deal with these challenges, we will continue to be agile at each of our locations and respond quickly and flexibly to the constantly changing requirements – with an unflinching customer focus. This principle



applies to every industry and region. We will meanwhile continue to invest in long-term projects. For us, the key strategic themes continue to be the transformation of mobility, digitalization and sustainable solutions.

### **About the Freudenberg Group**

Freudenberg is a global technology group that strengthens its customers and society long-term through forward-looking innovations. Together with its partners, customers and research institutions, the Freudenberg Group develops leading-edge technologies and excellent products and services for about 40 markets and for thousands of applications:

seals, vibration control components, batteries and fuel cells, technical textiles, filters, cleaning technologies and products, specialty chemicals and medical products.

Innovation strength, strong customer orientation, diversity, and team spirit are the cornerstones of the Group. The 170-year-old company lives by its core values: a commitment to excellence, reliability and pro-active, responsible action. In 2022, the Freudenberg Group employed over 51,000 people in around 60 countries worldwide and generated sales of more than €11.7 billion. For more information, please visit [www.freudenberg.com](http://www.freudenberg.com).