



ZSCHIMMER & SCHWARZ

## Press Release

# 3D-printed prosthetic hands thanks to donation from Zschimmer & Schwarz

**Worldwide aid: the chemical company supports the Spanish organisation Ayúdame 3D**

**Lahnstein, 23 October 2023** – The loss of a limb decisively changes the lives of those affected and often has a lasting impact on their quality of life. The Spanish organisation Ayúdame 3D wants to help these people by producing prostheses using 3D printers and donating them free of charge. Zschimmer & Schwarz supports them in this mission with a donation of 3,500 euros. As part of the chemical company's donation campaign, Elena Mezquita, employee at Zschimmer & Schwarz España in Vila-real, Spain, proposed the project for funding.

Ayúdame 3D uses 3D printers to produce prosthetic arms and hands – the so-called "Trésdesis". These are provided free of charge to people around the world who have had an amputation. The prostheses are made from PLA, a plastic from renewable sources, for example corn starch. The mechanism is similar for all types of prostheses: with the natural joint movement of the person, a mechanism of nylon threads is activated that makes the fingers close tightly. When this movement is reversed, rubbers return the fingers to their initial position. The prostheses improve people's quality of life and give them, for example, better opportunities for school or education or higher chances of employment.

In addition, Ayúdame 3D offers workshops for companies. One of these workshops took place at Zschimmer & Schwarz España. "The employees learned about design and 3D printing and then worked together in teams to assemble prostheses from individual parts," explains Elena Mezquita, the initiator of the donation project. "In total, we made eight prosthetic hands that will be donated to people with disabilities. At the same time, we learned a lot and also grew stronger as a team through the joint task."



**ZSCHIMMER & SCHWARZ**

## Press Release

On the occasion of the company's 125-year anniversary in 2019, the shareholders of the Zschimmer & Schwarz Group started a special charitable programme: all employees around the world were asked to present local initiatives that the company could support with a donation. This donation campaign went into the next round in 2022 and will be repeated every two years in the future.

Ayúdame 3D is one of more than 20 projects and institutions across Europe supported by Zschimmer & Schwarz as part of the donation campaign with a total sum of around 250,000 euros. "Social responsibility and sustainable action have been part of the DNA of our family business Zschimmer & Schwarz ever since it was founded", explains Gisela Rochow, shareholder of the Zschimmer & Schwarz Group. "We are happy that our donations have a direct impact in the locations where our companies are based and that we can thus give something valuable back to society", adds Thomas Schwarz, also shareholder of Zschimmer & Schwarz.



During the workshop held by Ayúdame 3D at Zschimmer & Schwarz España, the employees assembled hand prostheses from 3D-printed parts



**ZSCHIMMER & SCHWARZ**

## **Press Release**

*2,704 chars excl. heading and captions*

### **About Zschimmer & Schwarz**

Zschimmer & Schwarz is a global supplier of chemical auxiliaries and specialities headquartered in Lahnstein near Koblenz, Germany. The company was founded in Chemnitz in 1894 and has been 100% family-owned since. Having supplied speciality chemical solutions for almost 130 years, Zschimmer & Schwarz is positioned across industries with its nine business divisions. The company develops, produces and distributes tailor-made chemical auxiliaries for the leather, ceramic, textile and chemical fibre industries. Manufacturers of cleaning agents, personal care products, paints and coatings, lubricants and industrial applications all over the world trust in the company's chemical specialities as well. The corporate group Zschimmer & Schwarz comprises 28 companies in 16 countries on five continents, 20 of which have their own production facilities.

### **Contact**

Zschimmer & Schwarz Chemie GmbH  
Max-Schwarz-Strasse 3–5  
56112 Lahnstein | DE  
T +49 2621 12-201  
F +49 2621 12-407  
info@zschimmer-schwarz.com  
zschimmer-schwarz.com