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# Company Profile

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We have chosen to focus only on what we do best, thanks to our technical expertise and creative genius.

In 10 years of listening to customer needs we have improved our ability to find the most suitable process solutions.



## About us

Berkem Srl is the only Italian chemical company specializing in electroplating that designs, develops, produces and commercializes a wide range of innovative, performing and reliable **galvanic products and machinery** for the goldsmith, fashion, medical and applied engineering industry.

The effectiveness and quality of Berkem formulations is guaranteed by:

- in-house production of all solutions;
- check and control of all process phases;
- use of metal sponges, sheets and ingots of the highest purity as raw materials;
- full process customization.

The success of Berkem strengthened over the years depends on the extremely professional technical expertise and high production technology able to guarantee adequate pre-sales and post-sales consultancy support for each area of expertise.

Careful listening to customer needs is focused on offering adequate solutions in terms of performance, desired result and price.

Berkem is:

- Understanding the real process needs of the customer
- Creativity and excellent result on any finish
- Availability and expertise in pre-sales and postsales service
- Consultancy and research towards common progress

Berkem turns the experience, gained in many years of experience in the field of professional plating, into real opportunities for success for its customers.

#### Certifications and integrated Quality System

Quality is the priority objective and reference for all business functions in the everyday routine of their work: from choosing the raw materials, to the reliability of the machinery and the entire production process, to the tests and meticulous checks of each processing stage.

**Customer satisfaction** is the nourishment of the efforts, and the certifications obtained are the proof of investments made to ensure the practicality of the work.

The **compliance with international standards** and its constant verification are the guarantee of our reliability.

Berkem is fully aware of its part and responsibilities within the economic and social community therefore it has made the development of quality, human capital, environmental protection, and occupational safety and health an element of its corporate culture and relations with the Interested Parties.

## **Integrated Policy**

The improvement of the Integrated Quality Management System in all its parts and its compliance with the evolution of the company business and the reference regulatory framework represent a fundamental basis for allowing Berkem to successfully pursue the objectives relating to the various certifications.

Furthermore, Berkem undertakes to constantly reduce the environmental impact by carrying out its production processes, activities, products and services in compliance with scientific-technological progress, and defines its primary commitment as the pursuit, maintenance and continuous improvement of the safety and protection of the workers and their health in the workplace.



Berkem Quality System is certified by TÜV Italia according to the standards:



UNI EN ISO 9001:2015 UNI EN ISO 14001:2015 UNI EN ISO 45001:2018 By sustainable development we understand a development "that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

Bruntland Commission



### **Ethics and Sustainability**



Berkem has an ethical and sustainable business idea, namely capable of creating economic value without compromising the resources of future generations, and for this purpose is committed

to look for the best solutions on a daily basis in compliance with various interests and in particular with the value of human life, man and respect for the environment. Working towards a responsible business is a decision that must be made by each person aware and involved. Cooperating with those who share a common environmental protection project is a fundamental step to make the most of the investment launched in process improvement and technological renewal.

This commitment is highlighted by the international environmental and safety certifications **UNI EN ISO 14001:2015** and **45001:2018** obtained and focused on showing an eco-friendly production which favors low environmental impact.

This awareness involves using the best practices for the good of the company and the surrounding environment in order to reduce the environmental impact of production by creating plans for reducing consumption focused on greater efficiency both in terms of energy and performance.

#### **Responsible Jewellery Council**



In 2019 Berkem became a certified member of the **Responsible** Jewellery Council, an international non-profit Organization that brings together companies

operating in the jewellery sector focused on building a responsible supply chain for diamonds, gold, colored stones, silver and platinum "from the mine to the consumer".

The RJC has finalized a reference standard for the industry, and a RJC Code based on established international principles in order to promote responsible business standards and practices.



In December 2022, Berkem obtained the RJC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification. This is a voluntary certification for RJC members and gives our customers and

suppliers the assurance they need about how precious metals are purchased, tracked and processed through the supply chain. It provides a guarantee of the integrity of our products and materials.

Berkem offers a special line of precious plating solutions, salts and precious compounds obtained from 100% recycled and RJC CoC compliant metals.



Certified Companies demonstrate that they work ethically, respecting human rights, and protecting the environment all according to good management practices

## Laboratory Analyses

Berkem has **two in-house specialized and technologically-advanced analytical laboratories** dedicated to research and development of new processes, production quality control and customer technical assistance.

Efficient quality control processes according to strict analytical standards, combined with continuous investment in Research & Development and improvement of the supply chain are crucial in order to allow us ensuring the marketing of repeatable products and expanding and improving our quality products offer.

Berkem offers an accurate analysis service for any galvanic process and any verification need on its deposits:

**Instrumental tests/presence of metals**: tests carried out both on solution and on the surface, allowing obtaining precise qualitative and quantitative information regarding the metals present.

**Tests on galvanic baths**: tests carried out directly on galvanic solutions that allow monitoring and optimizing their efficiency.

**Corrosion tests**: monitoring of the surfaces and deposited layers resistance in extreme conditions and simulating periods of prolonged use.





## **Test Service**

Berkem's laboratories allow performing the following chemical analyzes and laboratory tests:

- Chemical analysis of metals in solution by means of plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES)
- Spectroscopic analysis by X-ray fluorescence (XRF)
- Chemical analysis of substances by UV-VIS
  spectrophotometry
- Photometric analysis of color
- Resistance analysis of galvanic deposits
- Infrared spectroscopic analysis (FTIR)
- Volumetric, conductometric, potentiometric and pH chemical analyses
- Electrochemical analysis of galvanic deposits

#### **Customizations**

Berkem transforms flexibility, creativity and knowledge into the maximum customization of product and service, i.e. meeting the needs of individual customers and materializing in the research and production of exclusive products.

Interaction with the customer creates the necessary involvement that materializes into excellent products for both parties.

Berkem offers customization service for all galvanic processes in order to guarantee its client unique finishes, distinctive colors and alloy deposits suitable for use. Thanks to Research & Development and the cuttingedge production technology, Berkem transforms the experience gained in 10 years of activity on the market into actual successful opportunities for its customers.





## **Research & Development**

Berkem Research&Development is the set of forwardlooking activities focused on:

- increasing knowledge
- making innovation available
- improving existing products and create new ones
- making production processes more efficient

The **significant collaborations** with research institutes and Universities focused on research projects and tests on new formulations and technologies, and the growing destination of corporate investments in laboratory instruments and production technology allow Berkem to strengthen its skills with a view to continuous improvement.

The **innovative technologies** are considered essential for production efficiency and the quality of the final product, but the role of individuals at any level of the internal process remains the cornerstone of the corporate strategy that incentivizes teamwork, training and value of people.

#### **Berkem Academy**

Electroplating is a very specific field that finds little documentation especially from an operational point of view. This is why the consultancy matter concerning the operators in the sector becomes essential in order to obtain the best possible results by means of specific work methods and accurate technical measures to be applied in the production line.

Berkem Academy offers training courses designed for all those involved in the galvanic process at all levels: an idea to create direct learning and make the most of the various activities in the galvanic field, with benefits for the entire network.

Increasing the sale value of each individual product places Berkem close to its customer in order to assist him in the correct use of the various chemical solutions and related machinery by applying the most advanced techniques and process methods.



Berkem Academy supports the professional development of the sector







## **Goldsmith and Silversmith**

Berkem's background lies in the experience gained in the goldsmith and silversmith sectors as qualified suppliers of top of the range galvanic processes and machinery. The wide choice of ready-to-use solutions and training products has made it possible to meet any surface need for every type of customer: from the small goldsmith workshop, to the large production company, to electroplating subcontractors.

The product customization has also led to the creation of high-level lines dedicated to fine luxury jewellery brands that seek exclusive color and surface effects. The transfer of know-how from the company towards customer takes place on a daily basis with technical support, when seeking the appropriate solution to a process issue and by means of the communication channels made available to users.

The commitment to sustainable production has always been the distinctive feature of Berkem products for the total absence of allergenic metals in their formulations.

#### Fashion

Berkem's expertise is highlighted by the formulations of galvanic processes developed for the fashion accessory industry, especially for luxury brands where the high quality of the deposit is the result of maximum process customization.

Berkem supports the fashion customer with details designed according to the specifications provided and tested by means of the countless tests developed in the dedicated in-house laboratory. Galvanic solutions for these sectors must guarantee repeatability of results and must facilitate the maintenance of the bath, the versatility of use regarding the process on different metal bases and above all maximum cost reduction.

The company's approach more and more focused on operating in a flexible, transparent and sustainable manner represents a plus that certifies Berkem in the supply chain of the fashion sector.

## **Medical and Biomaterial**

Berkem collaborates with Research institutes, Universities and medical companies for carrying out biocompatible processes and samples to test new electro-depositions/finishes for the most varied uses (components for oceanographic probes, electrodes and components for medical devices and medical prosthesis, etc.).

Starting from the technical and required specifications provided by the customer we are able to formulate the most suitable galvanic solutions by designing (when needed) the machinery necessary for use.

## **Applied engineering**

Over the years Berkem has developed a wide range of galvanic solutions dedicated to the industry, by following the customer needs from installation, control and subsequent maintenance of the baths, guaranteeing a targeted chemical analysis service. We develop these technologically advanced processes starting from the production needs of each customer, and designing (when required) also the entire line of galvanic plants and the related automation.

The high level of process customization in these sectors is defined by preliminary deposit tests focused on finding the best solution for the customer needs in collaboration with our commercial partners.





#### Salts and precious compounds

Berkem uses the in-house production of salts and precious compounds for its galvanic processes. In this way the company is able to guarantee the quality of each product sold.

All Berkem precious salts and metal compounds are obtained exclusively from metal sponges, ingots and foils of the highest purity and analytical grade reagents.

## Precious galvanic solutions

Berkem precious galvanic solutions are chemical formulations for the treatment of metal surfaces, which contain precious metals from sponges, ingots and sheets of the highest purity. Electrochemical solutions based on precious metals make the most of the properties of the elements/metals by transferring them by means of the sediment on the treated objects.

## Non-precious galvanic solutions

Non-precious galvanic solutions are chemical formulations based on non-precious metals and are commonly called basic treatments, as they level and cover the surface porosity, give greater mechanical and chemical resistance and prepare the base for subsequent precious finishes due to their technical and mechanical features. The main metals used in these solutions are: copper, nickel, bronze, tin and zinc.

## Cyanides

Berkem completes the wide range of chemical products designed for electroplating with a line of highpurity cyanides available in 25-50 kg packages and in convenient 1 kg approved cans that facilitate handling operations and avoid the storage of surpluses.









## Pre and post treatments

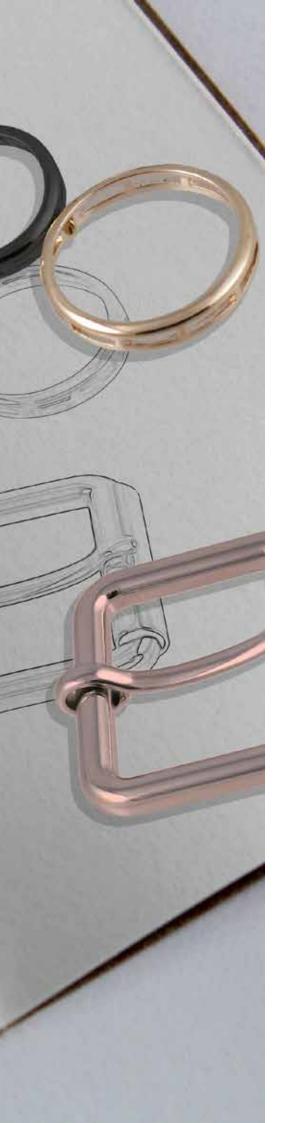
The pre-treatment and post-treatment processes are fundamental in every galvanic process as they favor the adhesion and homogeneity of the deposit, preventing the onset of faults (glazing, peeling, pitting, etc.), and protecting against oxidation while increasing resistance to corrosion and wear. Other post-treatments on the other hand are used to create decorative effects such as bluing or aging. The experience gained by Berkem in the most varied production lines has allowed the development of specific product lines for each metal to be treated.

#### Machinery & accessories

Berkem designs and manufactures galvanic machinery and plants for professional use, guaranteeing maximum efficiency in terms of deposition outcome and applied technology, in full compliance with machinery and CE regulations. These machines are made with topnotch and long-lasting materials that adapt to the most varied needs in terms of size, production type and experience of use. The innovation of Berkem lies in the modularity of the elements, in the high level of precision regarding the electrical components and in the modern and essential design that facilitates the cleaning and maintenance of each machine or equipment over time.

## **Enamels and paints**

ENALOR is a range of two-component cold enamels with high technical features obtained by mixing only high quality epoxy resins which can be polished/ lapped and laser marked after hardening. All ENALOR enamels are heavy metals free and comply with EN 71 part 3;1994 and annexes of 2000 and AC 2002. CATAFOR is a high performance cathodic dip-paint coating process, transparent and colored, able to deposit incredibly resistant films imperceptible to the touch and the eye in a uniform and long-lasting manner on any metal object that needs protection against oxidizing and chemical agents. CATAFOR offers the possibility to color the metal without shade limits. Emotional Plating is color, brilliance, gleam, softness and uniqueness.



#### EMOTIONAL PLATING electroplating for stylists

This is not the traditional electroplating consisting of technicalities and rigid parameters, but the creative aspect offered by Berkem while having perfected the galvanic product, and therefore being able to work on the appearance of the deposit in terms of surface shade and brightness by reproducing the color of leather, of a fabric or any material; satisfying the needs of stylists by creating visible and customizable solutions for them. This is the touch of creative technology thanks to which Berkem transforms a metal into an emotion that will give life to jewellery or an accessory, making it desirable and enviable in total harmony with its context.

Colors change our perceptions of pleasure and draw attention by creating balance and dystonias.

The delicate shades of pink, the audacity of black and the purity of white ...

... recall universal stories of women who have always lived with their extravagances and their several needs for elegance, each one absolutely unique, tormented and frivolous in the outfit chosen for each day of their life;

... they speak of the man who wants style and sophistication and who surrounds himself with the beauty to be found in the culture of his time. **BERKEM srl** Via della Provvidenza, 63 35030 Rubano (PD) | Italy

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