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Corporate News from Switzerland

CAVITEC

COOPERATION CAVITEC – SANTEX

As from January 1, 2004, the activities of CAVITEC and SANTEX NONWOVEN are operating within the company structure of Santex AG, together with the machinery activities of SANTEX. There will be a joint production unit for all sectors. This unit will include procurement, parts manufacturing, electrical and software, and internal assembly. Combining these activities into one production unit enables a more efficient production and better utilization of resources. Besides production and admin services, there will be 2 independent business units within Santex AG:

BU Cavitec / Nonwoven

- coating & laminating (hotmelt, scatter, dot, etc.)
- Santex Nonwoven (Santatherm, Santaframe, etc.)
- prepreg impregnation (glass and carbon fiber & fabric, etc.)

BU Santex

- traditional program of Santex in the knitted goods finishing

The business units will combine all activities related to products and customers. Product development, marketing, sales, planning, engineering, design, installation and after sales teams are combined within the independent business units.

The location of BU Cavitec / Nonwoven will remain at Münchwilen. Offers, sales contracts, order confirmations, etc, will be issued under the legal entity Santex AG, however, the brand names CAVITEC and SANTEX NONWOVEN will be further cultivated.

SAURER

NONWOVEN DIVISION GROWS

The Saurer Group has taken over Horsens, Denmark-based M&J Fibretech A/S.

With this acquisition, Saurer continues to strategically expand its activities in the nonwovens growth market. M&J Fibretech is an engineering company, which designs and supplies airlaid systems. Cellulose fibers and short cut staple fibers are made into a fabric which predominantly finds application in hygiene products.

"With this purchase, we have expanded our solution competence in the nonwovens sector and have strengthened our market position as a Total Solutions Provider", says Heinrich Fischer, CEO of Saurer.

Product-responsibility for the Nonwovens Division lies with the Saurer subsidiary, Neumag. The company, headquartered in Neumünster, Germany, offers total solutions for the nonwoven industry with systems and plants for the production of spunbond. "Airlaid is a process with extremely good prospects and perfectly supplements our ranges of products and services, as it can be combined with our spunbond process", emphasizes Dr. Carsten Voigtländer, CEO of Neumag

Nonwovens are fabrics with an ever-increasing range of applications. Filters, baby diapers, insulating materials and wipes are just a few examples. It is estimated that the growth of the nonwovens market lies in excess of 6% annually.

The Saurer Textile Group is the world's leading manufacturer of technologically sophisticated systems for spinning, texturizing, twisting and embroidery and unites the brands Allma, Barmag, Melco, Neumag, Schlafhorst, Volkmann and Zinser under a single umbrella. These companies' products and services play a key role in the value-added chain within the textiles industry.

CIBA

INVESTMENT OF 15 MILLION IN TEXTILE DYES PRODUCTION

Swiss Ciba Specialty Chemicals Inc.(CSB) announced that it will invest CHF15 million in the production of textile dyes in Basel.

The automation of product lines in the synthesis and standardization areas will make production more efficient. As a result, 150 to 200 jobs will be reduced over the coming years. The cuts will be implemented through the normal retirement process and transfers.

RIETER

RIETER LAUNCHES NEW INTERNET PLATFORM

With the relaunch of its website, Rieter is offering easier and faster access to all products and services for its customers worldwide, as well as up-to-the-minute information for investors, financial analysts and journalists.

Visitors to the new site can obtain immediate access to sources of information in five main sectors – Textile Systems, Automotive Systems, Investors, Media Center and Inside Rieter Group – which provide a comprehensive picture of Rieter.

The reduction of the primary navigation facility to only a few sectors enables users to access more information more directly, since the new Content Management System operates with menus that can be opened and navigated via mouse click. This new structure and navigation, and the subdivision of the pages into different information boxes, enables many items of information to be selected directly from the homepage with a single click.

Rieter's product and service offering can now be found at the following address (www.rieter.com). Previously, users had to know and select several Internet addresses, since the group's global coverage through dozens of locations and companies was reflected in an Internet structure with a number of different, local web addresses that had evolved over time. Rieter is an internationally oriented technology group engaged in developing and producing sophisticated systems solutions for the automotive and textile industries. In the 2003 financial year Rieter generated sales of 3,115 million CHF with 13,316 employees worldwide. The Textile Systems Division accounted for 1,228 million CHF and the Automotive Systems Division for 1,873 million CHF of this total.

Rieter Award 2003

The Rieter Award has been presented each year since 1989 to students or future specialists. Rieter's objective is to support young talent at universities and institutes by offering an attractive

prize. At the same time, we appreciate the link between training and Rieter specialists which is created through the award.

The selection of the prize-winners takes place in close cooperation with the universities and professors. The prize is awarded to students or young employees in the field of textiles who have attracted attention by their excellent work and exemplary commitment.

Good knowledge of English is essential, as the Rieter Award includes an invitation to visit Rieter in Winterthur. The Award Week took place in September 2003. During this visit the prize-winners were able to get to know Rieter, its products, its culture and values, and in particular its employees and management.



The award-winners for 2003, from left to right: José Caldeira Cardoso Neto (Brazil), Zia Ur Rehman (Pakistan), Ahmet Kalkan (Turkey), Saurabh Sakhuja (India), Junjie Liu (China), Jong Sung Kim (Korea).

A program about Switzerland and its inhabitants was, of course, also part of the week.

During this week the prize-winners also present their final examination papers. An increase in professionalism of both work and presentation can be observed from year to year. This also indicates the high standard of textile training worldwide.

First official USTERIZED® certification in Egypt

The new Member Program USTERIZED, launched at ITMA 2003 in Birmingham, has its first official certified member: Setcore Spinning Co., New Borg Elarab City, Alexandria / Egypt.

Last December, Setcore Spinning Co. passed successful the certification process and the auditing. Within the new USTERIZED Member Program USTER offers exclusively to selected customers the use of its recognized USTERIZED brand. USTERIZED products are a major contribution to success. For export-oriented international spinners, quality management with USTER products is a must. Leading spinning mills stand out when their professional quality control is done with USTER products and according to international standards. The brand name USTERIZED is the quality seal to support and to emphasize this.

Some dozens of pre-registered customers are currently going through the audit and will be certified within this year.

For further information please contact Uster Technologies AG, Email: info@usterized.co



The official USTERIZED Certificate was handed over to Mr. Nassar, Executive Vice Chairman Setcore Spinning Co., by the USTER Representatives Mr. Furter (Uster Technologies AG, Uster) and Mrs. May Ragab (USTER Representative for Egypt).