

Editorial: Weaker Markets Spur Acquisitions in the European Technical Textile Industry

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Textiles Intelligence Ltd

Date: Dec, 2009

Pages: 7

Price: US\$ 365.00

ID: E2021473C7FEN

European technical textile manufacturers and their suppliers have been reporting lower sales and profits for 2009. The downturn spans a wide range of sectors, and most players are relieved that the losses are not as bad as they might have been.

One outcome of the weaker conditions has been a series of announcements of significant consolidations in the second half of 2009 as companies have looked to their longer-term futures.

Examples of such consolidations include the purchases of:

- Gamma's Coating & Composites business unit by Jagenberg;
- Tamfelt by Metso;
- Perfojet by Andritz;
- Oerlikon Enka Tecnica by its management.

This trend was first observed in the European automotive fabrics industry as a result of the decline in car sales which began in early 2008. More recent consolidations within this sector include the purchases of:

- Eybl International by the Prevent Group;
- Fezko by Michel Thierry Group;
- Stankiewicz by International Automotive Components (IAC).

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