

Global Technical Textiles Business Update, 1st quarter 2010

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Abstracts

Among recent acquisitions, Glatfelter has taken over the nonwovens producer Concert Industries from Brookfield Special Situations Management while Kiri Dyes & Chemicals Ltd (KDCL) in India has purchased DyStar, thereby rescuing the company from insolvency. Royal Ten Cate has acquired AML UK, and Trützschler has completed its takeover of John D Hollingsworth on Wheels.

In other developments, Elmarco and Kyoto Institute of Technology have agreed to jointly develop commercial-scale nanofibres while Elmarco has begun work with the National University of Singapore (NUS) on joint research projects in novel nano-scale materials. Lenzing and Circle, meanwhile, will cooperate in the development and commercialisation of regenerated fibres, Polartec will market water resistant and breathable soft-shell fabrics employing Finetex EnE technology under the Polartec Power Shield Pro brand, and Fiberweb and Chisso are exploring the feasibility of a joint venture in China.

Fibertex Personal Care will invest about Dkr275 mn (US\$50 mn) in the expansion of its capacity in Asia by building a new production line at its plant in Malaysia. Polymer Group Inc (PGI) plans to install state-of-the-art, custom-designed, spunmelt machinery in the USA and China, and Tredegar Film Products is building a new production plant in India. PPG Industries, meanwhile, has restarted a fibre glass furnace in North Carolina, USA, and PT South Pacific Viscose (SPV) has started trials on a fourth production line in Purwakarta, Indonesia.

Hohenstein Institute has opened an office in the Dominican Republic in order to support textile and clothing producers, buyers and trading firms in or near the country. Nano-Tex has opened a research and development (R&D) centre in Hong Kong, and PGI is

planning to establish a regional Center of Excellence (COE) in Suzhou, China.

Elsewhere, Rieter Textile Systems has stated its belief that the crisis in the textile machinery market is past its worst, while PGI has reported lower sales but higher profits.

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ACQUISITIONS

Glatfelter has acquired nonwovens producer Concert Industries
India's Kiri Dyes & Chemicals has rescued DyStar from insolvency
TenCate's purchase of AML UK will strengthen its position in the UK armour market
Textile machinery builder Trützschler has acquired John D Hollingsworth on Wheels

BUSINESS NEWS

Elmarco and Kyoto Institute of Technology will jointly develop commercial-scale nanofibres
Elmarco is working on joint research projects in novel nano-scale materials with the National University of Singapore
Hohenstein Institute has opened an office in the Dominican Republic
Lenzing and Circle will cooperate in the development and commercialisation of regenerated fibres
Management changes have been made at Devan Chemicals
Polartec will market water resistant and breathable soft-shell fabrics employing Finetex EnE technology under the Polartec Power Shield Pro brand
PPG has restarted a fibre glass furnace in North Carolina, USA

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Polymer Group Inc (PGI) has reported lower sales but higher profits
Rieter believes that the crisis in the textile machinery industry is past its worst

INVESTMENTS

Fibertex is expanding its nonwovens capacity to serve the Asian hygiene market
Lenzing's Indonesian subsidiary, PT South Pacific Viscose (SPV), has started up a fourth production line
Nano-Tex has opened a research and development (R&D) centre in Hong Kong
Polymer Group plans to invest in spunmelt machinery in China and the USA

Polymer Group will create a research centre in Suzhou, China
Tredegar Film Products is building a new production plant in India

JOINT VENTURES

Fiberweb and Chisso are exploring the feasibility of a joint venture in China

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