

The world nonwovens industry: part 1—the leading ten producers, January 2018

<https://marketpublishers.com/r/WB4D0A691FBEN.html>

Date: January 2018

Pages: 76

Price: US\$ 750.00 (Single User License)

ID: WB4D0A691FBEN

Abstracts

In this report, the first in a series of three in which the world's top 40 nonwovens producers are profiled, Karen Bitz provides the latest information and analysis about the activities of the world's leading ten producers of nonwovens. For many of these players, sales volumes have increased compared with the previous year, but sales values have declined or remained static due to pricing pressures and lower raw material pass-through costs. Despite these challenges, several companies have made significant investments which are expected to benefit sales in the future. Suominen, for example, has completed work on a new line in South Carolina, USA, representing the largest single investment in the company's history, while Fitesa has opened new lines in Brazil, Germany, Mexico and Sweden, and has recently acquired Pantex. Other companies are focusing on transforming their businesses. For example, DuPont has merged with The Dow Chemical Company to form a technological giant which will thereafter be split into three companies while Ahlstrom has merged with Munksjo although it is continuing to invest in filtration.

Contents

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The leading ten players

1 BERRY GLOBAL (FORMERLY AVINTIV), USA

Products and markets

Medical

Hygiene

Industrial and speciality

Capacity expansion

Latin America

North America

Europe

China

Plant consolidation

2 FREUDENBERG PERFORMANCE MATERIALS, GERMANY

Manufacturing facilities

Spunlaid operations

Industrial nonwovens operations

Interlinings operations

Filtration operations

Novolon

Comfortemp

Acquisitions, divestments and joint ventures

Investments in Asia

International strategy

3 KIMBERLY-CLARK, USA

Corporate structure

Personal Care

Consumer Tissue

Business-to-Business
External nonwoven fabrics business
Products and markets
Filtration
Delivery systems (including wipes)
Sorbents
Building products
Personal care
Acoustics
Other developments

4 AHLSTROM-MUNKSJO, FINLAND

Product areas
Filtration & Performance
Specialties

5 DUPONT, USA

Internationalisation strategy
Tyvek
Construction
Personal protective apparel
Envelopes and packaging

6 JOHNS MANVILLE, USA

Corporate structure
Products and markets
High Performance Nonwovens
Roofing Materials
Manufacturing facilities

USA

Germany
Slovakia
China

7 FITESA, BRAZIL

8 GLATFELTER (FORMERLY CONCERT INDUSTRIES), USA

Advanced Airlaid Materials

Composite Fibers

9 SUOMINEN NONWOVENS, FINLAND

Company structure

Convenience

Care business

10 TWE GROUP, GERMANY

Company structure

Products and markets

List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Sales by the world's top 40 roll goods producers, 2016

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