

Press Release

Oerlikon Neumag and Teknoweb Materials joining forces in the future

Oerlikon enters into a strategic partnership in the high-growth market for disposable nonwovens

Remscheid/Neumuenster, Germany, Palazzo Pignano, Italy – April 4, 2017 – The Manmade Fibers segment of the Swiss Oerlikon Group is entering into a strategic partnership with the Italian company Teknoweb Materials s.r.l. aimed at extending the nonwovens production systems portfolio to include the high-growth market for disposable nonwovens. Within the context of the most important international trade fair for the nonwovens industry – the ‘Index’ in Geneva, Switzerland – opening today, Oerlikon announced that the two companies have come to an agreement in principle on establishing a new, jointly-owned company. This is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. With this development, Oerlikon strengthens the Oerlikon Neumag nonwovens systems business within the Manmade Fibers segment and expands into the attractive disposable nonwovens market.

Teknoweb Materials is an established technology provider focusing on nonwovens used in disposable products. The company has – in the form of the LEVRA technology – its own patented and particularly energy-efficient manufacturing process, with which wipes can be produced using an efficient spunbond-airlaid nonwovens process instead of the complex carded-spunlace process. The LEVRA technology dispenses with hydroentanglement and subsequent drying, which results in considerable energy and hence cost savings for customers. Together with Oerlikon Neumag’s know-how and equipment for manufacturing technical nonwovens (durable nonwovens), both partner companies will in future occupy a significant position within the nonwovens production solutions market. The newly-created, combined technology platform offers considerable synergy potentials and the ideal prerequisites for launching innovative products.

Advance into a CHF 300 million market

As a result of the partnership, the Manmade Fibers segment further advances its interests in the attractive disposable nonwovens market. With a market volume of around CHF 300 million and average growth of between 4 and 5 percent expected over the next few years, the disposable nonwovens market is particularly interesting for Oerlikon Neumag. In addition to the markets for technical nonwovens production solutions in which it already operates, this will also allow Oerlikon Neumag – with its machine and systems solutions – to participate more actively in one of the, in terms of volumes, fastest-growing areas within the overall nonwovens market in the future. Drawing on Oerlikon Neumag’s innovative airlaid, meltblown and spunbond technologies and the Teknoweb’s innovative nonwovens solutions, the newly-formed company will have excellent market access with a global sales and service network. Together, it will be possible to tap into market potentials more swiftly.

Georg Stausberg, CEO of the Oerlikon Manmade Fibers segment, comments: “We are pleased to be announcing this strategic partnership with Teknoweb. With this, Oerlikon Neumag gains access to innovative technologies, hence expanding its product portfolio as a total solutions provider for nonwovens production systems. This allows us to expand into an attractive new market. Not least, the

collaboration underlines our strategy of broadening the Manmade Fibers segment product offerings, with the aim of making its overall portfolio – currently with its primary focus on the filament business – more balanced in the long term.”

Fabio Zampollo, CEO Teknoweb Materials, explains: “Our objective was to join forces with a strategic investor with outstanding know-how, excellent technologies and machine and systems solutions. Oerlikon offers all these from a single source. Furthermore, we will in future also profit from professional engineering and the global service network of the entire Oerlikon Manmade Fibers segment.”

Joint presentation at the Index 2017

At this year’s Index, taking place in Geneva between April 4 and 7, Oerlikon Neumag and Teknoweb Materials will presenting a broad range of technologies for the efficient manufacture of nonwovens. At trade fair stand 2314, the experts of both companies will be providing information on process solutions for industrial applications such as filtration, roofing, geotextiles, automotive, medical and hygiene applications and also disposable nonwovens.

631 words

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About Oerlikon

Oerlikon (SIX: OERL) is a leading global technology Group, with a clear strategy to become a global powerhouse in surface solutions, advanced materials and materials processing. Backed by the key ability to intelligently engineer and process surface solutions and advanced materials, the Group is committed to invest in value-bringing technologies that provide customers with lighter, more durable, more efficient and environmentally sustainable products. A Swiss company with over 100 years of tradition, Oerlikon has a global footprint of over 13 500 employees at more than 180 locations in 37 countries and sales of CHF 2.3 billion in 2016. The company invested CHF 94 million in R&D in 2016 and has over 1 000 specialists developing innovative and customer-oriented products and services.

For further information: www.oerlikon.com

About the Oerlikon Manmade Fibers segment

With its Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag brands, Oerlikon Manmade Fibers segment is the world market leader for manmade fiber filament spinning systems, texturing machines, BCF systems, staple fiber systems, nonwovens and artificial turf systems and – as a service provider – offers engineering

solutions for the entire textile value added chain. As a future oriented company, the research and development at this division of the Oerlikon Group is driven by energy-efficiency and sustainable technologies. With the expansion of the product range to include polycondensation systems and their key components, the company now caters to the entire process – from the monomer all the way through to the textured yarn. The primary Oerlikon Barmag markets are in Asia, and – for Oerlikon Neumag – in the USA, Turkey and China. Correspondingly, Oerlikon Barmag and Oerlikon Neumag – with just under 2,500 employees – has a worldwide presence in 120 countries as part of the Oerlikon Manmade Fibers network of production, sales and distribution and service organizations. At the R&D centers in Remscheid, Neumünster and Chemnitz, highly-qualified engineers and technicians develop innovative and technologically-leading products for tomorrow's world.

For further information: www.oerlikon.com/manmade-fibers