

Gurit acquires Stesalit

Wattwil, December 8, 2000. Effective January 1, 2001, Gurit-Heberlein will acquire Stesalit AG, a company specialized in advanced composites, from Isola AG, a member of the German Rütgers Group. Headquartered in Zullwil, Switzerland, the high-tech company was founded in 1956 and today generates sales of about CHF 30 million with a workforce of 60 people.

Stesalit is specialized in the production of latest-generation composites and among other customers serves all major aircraft makers, including Airbus, Boeing, and Eurocopter. The company generates some 80% of its revenues in this domain. With a constant stream of qualifying systems launches, Stesalit ranks among the technology leaders in composites.

The advanced composites developed by Stesalit are extremely strong materials that weigh considerably less than traditional metal structures. The corrosion-free and highly flame-retardant composites offer great latitude in design. Another benefit is that individual structural components can be industrially prefabricated and delivered to assembly lines ready for installation.

High-performance fiber composites are therefore becoming more and more popular among makers of transport systems. Applications include high-speed rail systems and tilting trains (Pendolino) as well as the interiors of ships and buses. The use of advanced composites results in substantial energy savings.

After the acquisition, Stesalit will be operated by its current management as an autonomous business in Gurit-Heberlein's Industrial Applications division. Strategically, Stesalit is a perfect match for Gurit-Heberlein which has been manufacturing prepregs for the ski industry for decades and several years ago also began producing advanced composites for wind generators. The acquisition of Stesalit significantly strengthens Gurit-Heberlein's position in this promising market with above-average growth prospects and allows the company to establish a firm footing in the sophisticated aerospace sector.

Gurit-Heberlein AG
9630 Wattwil
Tel. 071 987 10 10
Fax 071 987 10 05
www.gurit.com
info@gurit.com

For further information:
Dr. Rudolf Wehrli, Chief Executive Officer
Gurit-Heberlein
Tel. +41 71 987 10 10
Fax +41 71 987 10 05