

Clear focus on Chemical and Synthetics Technology

Further details on the planned stock buy-back by the end of the month

Wattwil, January 8, 2001. After the approval of the respective anti-trust authorities (European Union and selected states), Gurit-Heberlein and Dow Chemical have completed the sale of Gurit-Heberlein's 50 percent stake in the joint venture Gurit-Essex to Dow Chemical effective January 5, 2001. Gurit-Essex will thus still be fully consolidated into the Gurit-Heberlein Group for the financial year 2000.

The funds generated through the sale shall to a substantial part be used to step up the expansion of Gurit-Heberlein's other Group divisions. In terms of future development, Gurit-Heberlein will be aiming to boost internal growth of its highly profitable companies in the industrial applications and health care sectors and to make suitable acquisitions in related or complementary areas. With the take-over of Enka tecnica and Stesalit, Gurit-Heberlein has already completed some first acquisitions since the announcement of the sale of its stake in Gurit-Essex.

As stated before, Gurit-Heberlein will also be launching a substantial 20 percent buy-back of its own stock. The Board of Directors will decide on the conditions of this stock buy-back by the end of January 2001 and then inform the shareholders about the respective implementation.

For further Information:
Dr. Rudolf Wehrli, CEO Gurit-Heberlein
Tel 071 987 1010
Fax 071 987 1005