

Gurit-Heberlein strengthens its position in fiber technology sector

Wattwil, 16 January 2004. The Gurit-Heberlein Group (Swiss stock exchange SWX: GURZ) is further strengthening its position in the fiber technology sector. Through its Swiss subsidiary, Heberlein Fiber Technology Inc., Gurit has taken retrospective control of Electrotex AG, Oberurnen, with effect from January 1, 2004. Electrotex specializes in the development and production of man-made fiber and staple yarn monitoring components. Among other things, these sensors ensure smooth, uninterrupted operations during yarn spinning, winding and texturing processes. The acquisition will complement Heberlein Fiber Technology's range of key components involving high levels of expertise and value-added to the world-wide yarn producers.

With effect from January 1, 2004, the Industrial Applications Division of the Gurit-Heberlein Group further consolidated its leading international position as a supplier of key components to the yarn producing and processing industry. Heberlein Fiber Technology Inc., Wattwil, has taken over Electrotex AG, domiciled in Oberurnen in the canton of Glarus/Switzerland. The parties have agreed not to disclose the selling price. The acquisition will push up Gurit's sales in the fiber technology sector by around CHF 8 million annually to approximately CHF 80 million.

Electrotex, which has over 50 employees, specializes in the development, manufacture and distribution of man-made fiber and staple yarn monitoring components and is one of the sector's leading suppliers worldwide. The electronic sensors are used with various types of textile machines to monitor running yarn, on-line yarn tension and yarn thickness. The sensors are also useful for detecting other features of man-made as well as staple yarns. Yarnbreak detectors ensure that high-speed spinning, winding and texturing processes run smoothly and without interruption.

The Electrotex takeover broadens Heberlein Fiber Technology's basis in process supervision technologies and will start to make an immediate contribution towards higher profitability in this sector.

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Electrotex and Heberlein Fiber Technology have been working together for many years, supplying mutually complementary products to similar markets. The merger will ensure easier adaptation of Heberlein and Electrotex products to each other in future and mean that customers worldwide can cover all their requirements with one supplier.

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About Gurit-Heberlein (www.gurit.com)

The Gurit-Heberlein Group specializes in clearly defined areas of the Chemical and Synthetics Technology sector. Group companies have profound and wide-ranging expertise in materials, processes and basic research for the synthetics sector. Gurit focuses on applications for the health care and industrial sectors. The Health Care Division addresses two market segments: the dental sector, where the main priorities are forming and filling materials, as well as a wide range of supplementary products for dentists and dental laboratories; and the medical and pharmaceutical industries, where the Group manufactures respiratory and disposable OEM products under clean-room conditions. Gurit's Industrial Applications Division is one of the world's leading suppliers of state-of-the-art material and construction systems. In the fiber technology sector (manufacture and finishing of synthetic fibers), key components from Gurit-Heberlein set standards for the industry worldwide.