

## Gurit increases expertise and capacity in the medical sector

*Wattwil, 23 November 2004.* The Gurit-Heberlein Group (Swiss stock exchange SWX: GUR) has strengthened its position in the medical device market. Gurit acquired Createchnic AG, a Swiss company based in Nürensdorf, near Zurich, with effect from 1 November 2004. With around 100 employees, Createchnic manufactures high-quality packaging, dispensing and OEM disposables under clean-room conditions for customers in the medical and pharmaceutical sector as well as the food industries. The acquisition will put a wider range of production technologies and patented solutions at the disposal of Gurit Medical Business while broadening its international customer base. It will also boost the Health Care Division's sales by approximately CHF 22 million annually.

The Gurit-Heberlein Group acquired Createchnic AG, based in Nürensdorf, with effect from 1 November 2004. With its highly automated, state-of-the-art infrastructure, the company develops, produces and assembles high value-added packaging, precision-dispensing and sealing systems, and disposable OEM devices for some of the world's leading medical and pharmaceutical companies as well as the foods industries.

Createchnic has mostly a clean-room infrastructure incorporating advanced single- and dual-component injection moulding machines, injection blow moulding and stretch-blow moulding machines together with automated assembly lines. With around 100 employees, it generates annual sales of about CHF 22 million. Gurit is integrating the company under its present management into the international Medisize Group as part of Gurit Medical Business. It has been agreed not to disclose the purchase price. The acquisition will further strengthen the profitability of the Gurit Health Care Division.

The manufacturing processes, the innovative and in some cases patented product solutions, and the internationally diversified customer base that have all come with the deal will strengthen the position of Gurit Medical Business as a leading multi-technology partner in the development and manufacture

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of pharmaceutical, medical and diagnostic disposables. With the new extensions to its processing and production expertise, systems supplier Gurit will be positioned to address the needs of the pharmaceuticals, medical and diagnostic industries more precisely. Liaising closely with its customers, Gurit Medical Business will thus be able to develop increasingly complex multi-component plastic devices and produce them, all under one roof.

Commenting on the acquisition, Dr. Rudolf Wehrli, CEO of the Gurit-Heberlein Group, had this to say: "Worldwide, there is no shortage of manufacturers specializing in one or two technologies. However, customers are increasingly coming to expect more comprehensive engineering and production expertise. With this broader technology base, Gurit Medical Business is going to be better positioned to meet those expectations."

Gurit's medical specialists, Medisize and Createchnic, will be present at ComPaMED, as part of Medica 2004 in Düsseldorf, from 24 to 26 November 2004. This is the thirteenth international show for components and fabricated and raw materials for medical production.

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**About Gurit-Heberlein ([www.gurit.com](http://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.