



Gurit sells fiber technology business to Saurer

Industrial focus on advanced composites

Wattwil, December 13, 2005. With effect from 1 November 2005, Gurit-Heberlein sold its well-established fiber technology activities to Saurer, which means that Gurit's industrial division now focuses exclusively on its core business, advanced composites. With Heberlein, Enka tecnica and Electrotex, Saurer acquires three world-renowned brands for cutting-edge components in synthetic yarn manufacturing. Saurer thus considerably extends its own TEXParts spinning components business, which so far has been mainly focused on cotton spinning. As a world-leading textile machine and components manufacturer with a strong presence in Asia, Saurer offers an outstanding industrial environment for the future development of Gurit's fiber technology operations.

With effect from November 1, 2005, Gurit-Heberlein sold its renowned fiber technology division to Saurer, Arbon, Switzerland. In recent years, Gurit has been committed to building up these activities and established a position for itself at the head of the market as a developer and manufacturer of technologically advanced, process-defining key components for the chemical fiber industry. The transaction includes Heberlein Fasertechnologie AG and Electrotex AG, both in Wattwil, Switzerland, which have a workforce of around 130, and the Enka tecnica factories in Heinsberg and Gröbzig, Germany, which employ about 200 people. This business represents a sales volume of around CHF 45 million. All the real estate, facilities and trademark rights have likewise been transferred to Sauer.

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Heberlein, Enka tecnica and Electrotex brands continue to exist

In the wake of a prolonged cyclical downturn in the demand for components used in the production and finishing of synthetic yarns, Gurit has over the past two years extensively restructured this business. Today, it is very well positioned to profit from the upturn taking shape in the market. In recent years, the focus of



the market for fiber technology components has shifted mainly to South Eastern Asia and, in particular, to China. Unlike Gurit, Saurer's TEXParts components business already has its own production and procurement facilities in this part of the world, all backed by an excellent marketing and sales organization. These avenues are now also accessible for the Heberlein fiber technology business and will strengthen its market and customer focus.

Saurer explicitly supports the strategy of Heberlein Management to keep the components business separate and open in all respects. Parallel to TEXParts, Heberlein, Enca tecnica and Electrotex will be part of the independent components division. Heberlein, Enca tecnica and Electrotex will continue to function autonomously on the market under their own brand-names and maintain their existing sales organizations. Saurer intends to keep all the production facilities acquired from Gurit operational. The existing management team under the leadership of Heinz Michel will be moving to Saurer.

No details have been released about the agreed selling price, but it does reflect the restructuring undertaken in the past few years and today's excellent positioning.

Gurit focuses on advanced composites

Following the sale of its fiber technology components business, Gurit's industrial operations will now focus entirely on advanced composites. These activities will comprise Gurit's industrial core business when the existing Health Care Division is presented to the stock exchange as an independent group in the course of 2006, as planned.

Further information regarding the strategic direction and reorganization of Gurit's composite operations will be released in January 2006.

About Gurit-Heberlein

Gurit-Heberlein specializes in Chemical and Synthetics Technology. The Group's two existing Divisions, *Industrial Applications* and *Health Care*, are to be made financially independent of each other in the course of 2006, retroactive to 1 January 2006, and will continue to be run as two public companies. Gurit's *Industrial Applications* Division is one of the world's leading suppliers of advanced composite materials to the wind energy, aircraft and aerospace, and marine and automotive industries, as well as for civil engineering applications.



The *Health Care* Division is active in two main areas: the production of impression and filling materials, pins, and a wide range of supplementary products for dentists and dental laboratories; and the clean-room manufacture of disposable medical and pharmaceutical OEM products as well as airway management products for the Medisize brand.

About Saurer: www.saurer.com

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