

## **Growth and acquisition strategy in chemical and synthetics technology / stock buy-back**

**Gurit-Heberlein has sold its 50% stake in Gurit-Essex to The Dow Chemical Company, its 50% partner in the joint venture, for approximately CHF 677m. The sale was agreed by both partners in response to increasing globalization and consolidation in the world's automobile industry. The significant revenues generated by the sale will enable Gurit-Heberlein to step up expansion of its core competencies in the Group's other synthetics sectors and to begin repurchasing its own stock.**

Wattwil, 13 October 2000. Gurit-Heberlein has sold its 50% stake in Gurit-Essex, a successful joint venture of long standing, to The Dow Chemical Company, its equal-interest partner in the company, for the equivalent of approximately CHF 677m. The sale is subject to approval by the relevant authorities. With this step, Gurit-Heberlein and Dow are acknowledging the movement towards increasing globalization and consolidation in the automobile industry of recent years. Dow's division, Dow Automotive, already holds a worldwide market position and its subsidiary, Essex Specialty Products, covered the bonding and sealing sectors in America and Asia, while Gurit-Essex focused exclusively on the European market. Gurit-Heberlein's sale of its 50% share has created a global supply structure which is geared optimally to the needs of the modern automobile industry and, at the same time, takes into account the interests of employees as well as guaranteeing maximum benefit for customers and the previous owners.

The sale will generate considerable funds for Gurit-Heberlein. These will be used to step up expansion of the Group's two other similarly successful divisions. In terms of future development Gurit-Heberlein will be aiming to boost internal growth for its highly profitable companies in the industrial and health care sectors and to make suitable acquisitions in related or complementary areas. Gurit-Heberlein will also be launching a substantial buy-back of its own stock.

Further details of the decisions currently reached by the Board of Directors and Group Management will be released at a conference for the media and financial analysts on 13 October 2000.

Gurit-Heberlein AG  
9630 Wattwil  
Tel. 071 987 10 10  
Fax 071 987 10 05  
[www.gurit.com](http://www.gurit.com)  
[info@gurit.com](mailto:info@gurit.com)

For further information please contact:  
Dr. Walter Känel / Dr. Rudolf Wehrli  
Gurit-Heberlein AG, CH 9630 Wattwil  
Tel. ++41 (0)71 987 10 10

