

Ongoing consolidation of European worksites at Gurit impacts Swiss production plants

- **SUPreM™ powder-impregnated thermoplastic tapes business sold**
- **Production of further thermoplastic composites at Bern**
- **Phasing out of oldest prepreg tower at Gurit (Zullwil)**

Gurit (SWX Swiss Exchange: GUR), a leading supplier of advanced composite materials, announced today operational changes impacting mostly its Swiss production sites. Gurit Suprem's powder impregnated thermoplastic tapes business is sold to a group of Swiss investors effective as of March 15, 2007, while production of thermoplastic composites manufactured in a melt process will be transferred to Bern. Flurlingen will cease to be a Gurit production site. In addition, the intention to moth-ball the oldest prepreg tower of the Group may create certain redundancies at Gurit (Zullwil).

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Wattwil/Switzerland, March 15, 2007. Gurit, a worldwide leading producer of high-performance advanced composite materials, has announced certain operational changes in its Swiss production plants as part of the overall consolidation of its European production sites.

SUPreM™ powder impregnated thermoplastic tapes business sold

The powder impregnated thermoplastic tapes business, formerly known as Gurit Suprem, Flurlingen/Switzerland, is to be sold to a group of Swiss investors who will manage this business in the future under the name Suprem AG, effective as of March 15. The divestiture of this business, which for Gurit is a small contributor to Group sales, will have medium term positive bottom line impacts by freeing up resources that can be focused on Gurit's three main markets. The buyer plans to strengthen the strategic focus of the company in the market for reinforced tapes and other thermoplastic products. The new company will provide a better strategic fit for the SUPreM™ powder impregnation business. The business will continue to operate in Flurlingen.

Bern becomes competence centre for thermoplastic products

Mainly specialised in larger-volume thermo-set advanced composites, this step enables Gurit to focus its thermoplastic composite activities on its Plytron-branded products, which are manufactured in a melt process. These activities are now located at Gurit (Ittigen), Switzerland, which also serves as the Group's competence centre for extruded thermoplastic products for winter sports and other markets.

Moth-balling the oldest Prepreg-tower at Gurit (Zullwil)

Gurit plans to moth-ball the Group's oldest, over 30-year-old prepreg tower at Gurit (Zullwil) by the end of June. The products manufactured on this equipment would be transferred to other towers in Zullwil and Kassel/Germany which are also qualified for Aerospace applications. In the aerospace business, the demand for solvent-based prepregs – typically manufactured in towers – is experiencing a downward trend, while melt-impregnated products – mainly manufactured on horizontal equipment – see a growth in demand. Moth-balling the oldest tower of the Group will strengthen the utilisation of the other towers and the overall efficiency of the Group.

Change in focus may lead to certain redundancies at Zullwil

Zullwil remains an important Gurit production site, especially for aerospace and civil engineering applications. Future activities at Gurit (Zullwil) will focus on the manufacture of specialized products for *Transportation and Marine, Sport and Civil Engineering* applications such as cyanate ester and epoxy prepregs, as well as lightweight unidirectional carbon prepregs. Additionally, significant investment will continue to be made in Gurit's pultrusion activities in Zullwil where capacity will have been effectively more than doubled at the completion of the currently planned investments. As a consequence of the intention to moth-ball the oldest prepreg tower, several positions in production as well as other areas may become redundant. Some people could find a new position internally. Gurit (Zullwil) will inform the respective cantonal authorities about its plans and is currently consulting the intended measures with the workers' representatives.

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On Gurit: The companies of Gurit Holding AG, Wattwil/Switzerland, are specialised on the development and manufacture of high-end composite materials featuring bespoke physical and chemical characteristics. The comprehensive product range comprises fibre reinforced prepregs, structural foam, gel coats, adhesives, resins and consumables as well as certain finished parts. Gurit supplies growth markets in Wind Energy, Transportation (Aerospace, Automotive, Rail) and Marine/Sports/Civil Engineering. The international Group has production sites and offices in Switzerland, Germany, Spain, the UK, Canada, as well as Australia, New Zealand, China and the USA. In 2006, Gurit achieved sales of CHF 381.3 million.

