

Sandler Higher sales and production

In 2010, the nonwovens producer Sandler AG, Schwarzenbach/Germany increased its sales by 21% or € 35 million to € 203 million. The production also rose by 12% or 9,000 tons to 80,000 tons of nonwovens. This represents the third successive year with an increase in sales; the company improved its turnover in all market segments.

The strategy of focusing on the hygiene wipes, automotive, filtration, and engineering markets, as well as the company's traditional market of household textiles, has proven to be the right choice.

In the past year, Sandler once again achieved 60% of its sales through exports to all parts of the world, mainly to other European countries.

Sandler already has the largest fiber-based nonwoven production location in Europe. Today, 40% of all fibers used come from

renewable raw materials (e.g. viscose fibers) or recycled PET bottles.

New nonwovens plant

In 2010, efforts focused on the construction of plant 4, with a total investment of € 40 million. As planned, the surface and underground construction work was completed in autumn 2010 and a large part of the landscaping work was carried out. With an organic color concept, the building blends harmoniously into the surrounding landscape. The installation of a new nonwovens line has, so far, proceeded as planned. The new central warehouse on the first floor has already been commissioned; production is set to start at the end of the first quarter of 2011.

The company employs 520 people. The construction of plant 4 has created 60 new jobs for qualified employees.

Italy Machinery for nonwovens

The Italian association of textile machinery (ACIMIT), Milan, estimates that about 50 member companies are involved in the production of machinery for nonwovens. This sector is observing steadily growing sales results, accounting for about 10% of the total sales of € 2.3 billion of the Italian textile machinery industry.

ACIMIT has been developing a project related to technical textiles and nonwovens which aims to enhance the knowledge in the field of these niche markets, drawing manufacturers closer to areas of research, while promoting targeted initiatives, often carried out in partnership with the Italian Trade Commission, Rome/Italy. ACIMIT's website

(www.acimit.it) features a special section dedicated to technical textiles and nonwovens, where visitors can find a list of associated companies operating in the sector.

New machinery catalogues

In 2011, ACIMIT, with the support of the Ministry for Economic Development and the Italian Trade Commission, has compiled a brochure that will be distributed at the major trade fairs of the sector as a useful tool aimed at promoting awareness for the technological excellence its associated manufacturers provide in nonwovens sector. The catalogue includes listings of products manufactured by these companies.

Now Gualchierani Baling Systems

On October 18, 2010 the new company Gualchierani Baling Systems NV Menen/Belgium has been founded. The new company is a collaboration between Industrie Meccaniche, Signa/Italy (Gualchierani family) and Valvan Baling Systems BV, Menen/Belgium and the activity will be to promote and sell hydraulic baling presses for the fiber and textile industry.

PR China New PP Spunbound Line

The Jofo Group is to invest more than US\$ 60 million in a new 3.2 m-wide, multi-beam Reicofil-IV spunmelt line from Reifenhäuser Reicofil GmbH, Troisdorf/Germany, for hygiene and medical applications and a separate finishing line in its Weifang plant in Shandong. The line will be delivered in April 2012 and is scheduled to start up in the 4th quarter of 2012.

NSC New nonwovens line in USA

The US nonwovens producer Skaps Industries, Athens/GA, has contracted NSC nonwovens, Tourcoing/France to provide their equipment for a needle punching line providing Geotextiles and other products to their markets. The decision to purchase this line is based on a continual growth for Skaps and is the second from NSC within the last 3 years. All after sales service and support will be supplied via NSC USA, Fort Mill/SC.

The line will include Thibeau Excelle batt formation including IsoProDyn and the new A.C.S. system for high speed cross lapping. The line will be completed with 3 Asselin needle-felt machines. This new line will offer high output while maintaining minimum weight variation and improved fiber orientation for consistent strength properties. Manufacturing equipment will be installed in their Athens location.

Mitsui Chemicals Spunbond expansion in Asia

The Japanese spunbond producer Mitsui Chemicals Inc., Tokyo, has continued to develop its hygienic spunbonded fabric operations in response to increased demand of Asian disposable diaper manufacturers. The company continues to intensify its supply framework and expand operations in East Asia, including Japan, and Southeast Asia. In Japan, expansion of demand for high quality hygienic spunbonded fabrics with improved functionality for disposable diapers is forecasted. The planned production plant expansion will help the company respond to the needs of this growing market.

Mitsui Chemicals wholly owned subsidiary, Sunrex Industry Co., Ltd., Yokkaichi, Mie Prefecture, boasts the largest domestic production facility for PP spunbond fabrics. Additionally, the company has a wholly owned subsidiary in Thailand, Mitsui Hygiene Materials Thailand Co., Ltd. The two production facilities continue to operate at full capacity.

Fibertex Splitting of nonwovens business

The needlefelt and spunbond nonwovens producer Fibertex A/S, Aalborg/Denmark, has split its company into two legal separate entities, Fibertex Personal Care and Fibertex Nonwovens, effective as of January 1, 2011. The group has plants in Denmark, in the Czech Republic and in Malaysia.