

A look at What's Going On In The Industry

H&V Strikes Expansion Deals in India, China

Hollingsworth & Vose has formed a joint venture with Nath Group to establish a manufacturing site in India. The plan includes the construction of a new mill near Aurangabad, Maharashtra which will be financed by both companies as well as warehousing facilities to better serve customers currently importing H&V products. The new mill will be able to produce the highest standards of water- and solvent-based engine filter media, as well as selected products for HVAC filtration and battery separator applications.

"H&V has been actively building our relationships and presence in India for many years," said CEO Val Hollingsworth. "We are pleased to be taking this next step forward to better serve our customers in India and the surrounding region. Our vice president of international business development Juergen Binzer, and I evaluated a number of options for expanding into India and we are delighted to be joining with Nath. Like H&V, Nath is a family owned, professionally managed company with a long term view and a commitment to technology. This investment, like our investments in China is part of our strategy to serve our customers globally."

H&V's vice president and general manager of its engine and industrial filtration business, David von Loesecke, said, "The demand in India for high quality engine and industrial filtration products is significant and growing. We have already created a successful base business of imported products with customers in India. We are pleased to be able to soon offer locally produced products incorporating our latest technology for our customers."

The joint venture is just the latest Asian investment for H&V who has also recently announced a major capacity expansion at its Suzhou, China mill. The expansion will consist of a new paper machine capable of producing water and solvent based filter media serving engine and industrial filtration applications. The new machine will be H&V's largest globally and is expected to come online in the first half of 2012. It is being de-

signed with the full ability to serve the growing market in China and other Asia-Pacific regions with high quality, performance-based products.

New Ownership Announced For Trevira

A consortium of Indorama Ventures PCL, based in Thailand and Italy's Sinterama is taking over Trevira, the polyester fiber manufacturer headquartered in Bobingen, Germany. The consortium signed a share purchase agreement for the acquisition with CA Werner Schneider in early February. Mr. Schneider re-established Trevira—which had filed for insolvency in 2009—on January 1, 2010 and has since acted as stockholder and chair of the supervisory board at the company. The search for new investors was announced in the second half of 2010 and the planned sale has reached its conclusion as scheduled.

With its German locations in Bobingen, Guben and Hattersheim, and a Polish production site in Zielona Góra, Trevira will be included in the global network of Indorama and Sinterama, under a new joint venture company established by the new owners. It will, however, continue to operate as a strong and independent company.

"We have secured in the last year the financial basis for the new Trevira, continued restructuring as scheduled and we have returned to investment mode. Trevira has finished 2010 with better results than was foreseen in our ambitious planning. The alliance of a European specialist in dyed yarns with global footprint and with the world's largest manufacturer of polyester offers Trevira now a sustained and secure perspective," Mr. Schneider said. "I am certain that with these partners we have found the investors who are best suited to Trevira."

IVL Group CEO Alope Lohia sees this acquisition as an opportunity to strengthen its leadership in innovation and specialty fibers strategy. "The globally renowned brand of Trevira is a welcome fit to our long term growth and we see the opportunity for a lot of mutually beneficial synergies between Trevira and our global organization."

"We see Trevira as a long-term investment and important extension," said Paolo

Piana, president of Sinterama, explaining the reasons for the takeover. "Our products and assets complement each other—which means we will be able to offer our customers a stronger and more flexible network for specialties." They also want to foster the strong brand of Trevira and advance its expansion worldwide.

Trevira, for its part, would benefit from being included in the network with a financially strong corporation. "For our customers and partners this means that we will in the future have an even better presence globally," said Trevira's managing director, Klaus Holz. "Above all, though, it secures continuity in our good relationships."

Skaps To Expand Needlepunch Business

Skaps Industries, an Athens, GA-based geotextiles company has contracted with NSC nonwoven to add a second needlepunch line to focus on growth. The line will include Thibeau Excelle batt formation including IsoProDyn and the new A.C.S. systems for high speed cross lapping as well as three Asselin needlepunch looms. The new line will offer high output while maintaining minimum weight variation and improved fiber orientation for consistent strength properties.

Skaps is a leader in the fabrication of geosynthetic and nonwoven drainage products for environmental and civil use in the U.S. and around the world.

PGI Purchase Complete

Scorpio Acquisition Corporation, an affiliate of Blackstone Capital Partners, has completed its previously announced acquisition of Polymer Group, Inc. The transaction helps continue to position PGI as a leader in the nonwovens industry. PGI's chief executive officer, Veronica Hagen, said, "The sale to Blackstone is the culmination of our strategic review process and we believe that this transaction represents the best value alternative available to our stockholders. Blackstone is committed to supporting our strategy of continued growth and investment in proprietary capabilities in our markets around the globe. The leadership team and all of the employees of PGI are excited