

nova-institute Global directory for bio-based composites

The market for bio-based plastics and composites continues to grow at double-digit figures and has now gained international status. The international business directory iBiB²⁰¹¹ published by nova-Institute, Hürth/Germany, and bioplastics magazine, comprises information on about 70 major companies, associations, agencies and R&D organizations from 16 countries.

The print version will be distributed free of charge by the publishers and international partners at trade fairs, exhibitions and conferences worldwide. The PDF version will be made available to a wide audience via email and websites. At www.bio-based.eu/iBiB a free and direct access to the database with more than 100 specific criteria is open to everyone.

Record figures for Filtech 2011

Over 5200 participants from all over the world visited the leading filtration and separation event Filtech 2011 held in March 2011 in Wiesbaden/Germany to catch up on innovations and equipment as well as related cutting edge products. Exhibitors increased by 46% and visitors by 38% from the last Filtech. About 56% of the visitors came from outside Germany.

The exhibition was accompanied by a 3-day conference during which the latest advances and techniques in liquid/solid and gas/particle separation were presented and discussed. More than 180 papers attracted close to 500 delegates.

Successful Index 2011

The nonwoven fair INDEX 11, which took place in April 2011 in Geneva/Switzerland, closed with record-breaking results, attracting more than 12,600 visitors. Exhibitors, which numbered 530 from 43 countries in over 21,600 m² space presented new developments from all market sectors – machinery and raw materials to converted products. Special events focused on innovation, nonwovens in packaging, and product presentations.

Seven awards, recognizing everything from product and process innovation to marketing brilliance and sustainability, were presented to the winning companies during a special ceremony on the first day of the exhibition. The next Index 2014 will take place from April 8–11, 2014 at the Geneva Palexpo exhibition halls in Geneva.

Rieter Automotive New Autoneum Holding AG

At the 2011 Annual General meeting on April 13, 2011, the Board of Directors of Rieter Holding AG, Winterthur/Switzerland, decided to separate Rieter's Textiles Systems and Automotive Systems divisions into two distinct stock exchange listed companies with independent ownership and management. The new company Autoneum Holding AG will be listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange in Zurich as of mid-May 2011. *Hans-Peter Schwald* has been nominated as Chairman of the Board, *Martin Hirzel* as CEO, *Urs Leinhäuser* as CFO and Deputy CEO.

Rieter acquired its automotive component supply business in the mid-1980s, with the takeover of Unikeller, thereby creating a counterweight to its established but cyclical business in the textile machinery sector.

Autoneum provides innovative and cost effective solutions for noise reduction and heat management to increase vehicle comfort and value. Autoneum has a broad portfolio of products, which it has categorized into 6 product lines: interior floor, underbody, engine bay, body treatment, interior trim and

trunk. Autoneum supplies its products to major automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEM) around the world and is structured into 4 regional segments: Business Group Europe, Business Group North America (USA, Canada and Mexico), Business Group Asia, and Business Group SAMEA (South America, Middle East and Africa). All its business groups produce a wide range of products with regional differences.

The Board of Directors of Autoneum is expected to consist of *Hans-Peter Schwald* (Chairman), *Rainer Schmückle* (Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Audit Committee), *Michael Pieper*, *This E. Schneider* (Chairman of the Nomination and Compensation Committee), *Peter Spuhler* and *Ferdinand Stutz*. The Group Executive Board of Autoneum is expected to consist of *Martin Hirzel* (CEO), *Urs Leinhäuser* (CFO and Deputy CEO), the 4 Business Group Heads: *Charles Fäh*, Business Group Europe, *Richard Derr*, Business Group North America, *Uwe Trautmann*, Business Group Asia, and *Martin Hirzel*, Business Group SAMEA.

Now Trützschler Nonwovens

In order to benefit more from the advantages of the synergies the complementary products of Erko Trützschler GmbH, Dülmen/Germany and Fleissner GmbH, Egelsbach/Germany, and to comply with the overall organization, both companies have been renamed and operate under the name of Trützschler Nonwovens GmbH since April 1, 2011. *Leen Osterloh* is the CEO of Truetzschler Nonwovens. The successful products of both companies will continue to carry their established names of Erko and Fleissner.

The product range covers the entire staple fiber preparation and web formation with roller cards or aerodynamic web forming machines. Erko crosslappers and Erko web drafters enable the production of the required

web weights and working widths with needling, hydroentanglement with the Fleissner AquaJet and the Fleissner dryer, chemical or thermal bonding methods.

The Fleissner man-made fiber product range of Trützschler Nonwovens offers equipment and systems for the production of staple fibers as an essential raw material for nonwovens products. In the area of carbon fibers Trützschler Nonwovens supplies complete systems in conjunction with partner companies.

The production plants of the Trützschler Group in China, India, Brazil and USA as well as the service centers in Turkey, Uzbekistan, Mexico, Italy and Spain enable Trützschler Nonwovens to offer service close to the nonwovens industry.

Johns Manville Europe Higher PET spunbond prices

The nonwovens producer Johns Manville GmbH, Bobingen/Germany, will increase prices for its polyester spunbond nonwovens effective June 1, 2011. The price increase will be implemented selectively and may be as high as a double-digit percentage depending on the respective product group.

NSC nonwoven New cards for Albaad

The wet wipes producer Albaad has ordered a new production line including Thibeau cards from NSC nonwoven, Roubaix/France. The line will include 2 Excellence cards which feature the new "T.T." card design. The extra wide line will significantly expand the company's production capacity.