Oerlikon amended its syndicated credit facility

Oerlikon has reached agreement with its consortium of banks on the terms for amending its existing CHF 2.5 billion credit facility. All 23 banks of the consortium agreed to the amendment. Given the challenging business environment, Oerlikon approached its banking group to amend the existing credit facility to provide sufficient flexibility to follow its stated business strategy. "The amendment of the syndicated loan is the first important step in strengthening the group's financial position", said Oerlikon's CFO Jürg Fedier. He adds: "The successful conclusion, following a proactively initiated amendment process, confirms also the support of our banking group to our plans".

The amount and tenor of the credit facility remain unchanged after the amendment. The covenant structure and pricing were adjusted to reflect Oerlikon's business outlook and also market terms for similar transactions. More specifically, the amended rates of interest are in the range of 175 to 450 basis points over LIBOR. The existing leverage covenant (ratio of net debt to adjusted EBITDA) level was aligned to proposed business plans and a capex, equity to total assets and interest cover covenant were added. In addition, the amended facility incorporates structural enhancements usual in the market, including security arrangements with share pledges on material subsidiary companies; however, no asset pledges are included.

On publication of the 2008 annual results, Oerlikon introduced a business program comprising three central work streams:

- Maintain sustainability of the group by accelerated restructuring and contingency measures.
- Secure financial stability with improvements to cash flow, reductions in working capital and refinancing.
- Enhance competitiveness through innovation and further concentration of the portfolio.

With the overall program, the company is responding to the current economic situation. Oerlikon CEO, Dr Uwe Krüger, comments: "We are well advanced with the execution of our overall corporate initiatives that aim at regaining profitability by 2010. Already earlier, we have communicated progress with our restructuring and portfolio streamlining measures. The succesful conclusion of the credit facility amendment is an important step of our strategy. We now continue to execute on all workstreams of our overall corporate program".

FESPA Digital Print Awards 2009

UK-based flooring solutions provider Bonar Floors (now trading as Forbo Flooring Systems) has been named Textile Category winner in the FESPA Digital Print Awards 2009, supported by HP.

Beating stiff competition in this increasingly popular category to win the Textile Award, Bonar Floors were singled out for their innovative floor solutions. Milan-based architectural practice Sottsass Associati approached Bonar Floors to produce a range of original designs using Bonar Floors' flocked flooring - a unique, velvety, minimalist textile floor cladding.

The Milanese company had never worked with the material, so it created an interesting design challenge being the first company to exploit high definition digital printing techniques on flocked flooring.

Bonar Floors overcame a number of obstacles to effectively fulfill the client brief. The **Reggiani Giano machine**, a clothing textile printer, was specially adapted to meet the requirements needed to create the innovative flocked flooring solution.

The flock, which is 2 mm long, had to be dyed and fixed to its roots – Bonar Floors has a 10-year quality guarantee that had to be met – so its design team and colorist research technicians worked with the Reggiani machine experts for 18 months to achieve the desired results. The machine also needed a specially acclimatised chamber, which meant that the entire facility was moved from one part of the factory to another to achieve the optimum operating environment.

Jason Holmes, Forbo Flooring Systems (left), receives his award from Las Barrow, FESPA Board Member.

Sally Dipple, Marketing Innovation Manager, Bonar Floors comments: "Demonstrating the fine, photographic detail of the designs, incorporating brilliant, contrasting colours, and achieving a three-dimensional visual effect had never before been attainable using traditional printing methods.

By using Bonar Floors' innovative concepts combined with its original research and development programme, we were able to customise and uniquely adapt the Reggiani Giano machine to our manufacturing requirements, making it possible to achieve these aesthetics for the first time. Only by using this new digital printing technique could we achieve the high-quality results necessary to realise Sottsass Associati's design intent."

Jason Holmes celebrated with other Category Winners at an exclusive dinner event in Amsterdam on 11th May, where he received his prize certificate from FESPA board member Lascelle Barrow.

Commenting on Bonar Floors' success, Nigel Steffens, FESPA CEO, said: "Year on year, we are witnessing the ever-increasing popularity of the Textile category which continues to attract higher numbers of entrants to the Digital Print Awards competition, making the task of selecting only one exceptional piece of work a difficult undertaking. Bonar Floors' entry triumphed over competition from across Europe, the Middle East and Africa because of its outstanding innovative nature, exemplifying the incredible results achievable when combining digital printing with inspirational ideas and imagination."

Steffens concludes: "Textile applications are increasing in their appeal, reflected in FESPA's commitment to the Digital Textile Conference and our dedicated textile event within FESPA 2010 under the FESPA Fabric brand."◆

Huntsman obtains court order against Kiri Dyes from India

The Textile Effects division of Huntsman Corporation announced it has obtained an order from the High Court of Mumbai against Kiri Dyes & Chemicals Ltd, a manufacturer of reactive dyes in India, for infringing a patent belonging to Huntsman.

In his ex-parte order dated May 7, 2009, Judge A. P. Deshpande prohibits Kiri from marketing or selling Reactive Super Black G that violates Huntsman's patent on Huntsman's NOVACRON® Super Black G dye, pending a full hearing. Huntsman's patent was duly registered with the Indian Patent Office in 2008 for a true innovation for producing deep black shades.

Kiri's counterfeit Reactive Super Black G product had been found at several textile mills in Asian countries, causing significant commercial damage to Huntsman's Textile Effects division. Samples of the infringing products were collected and analyzed by independent laboratories to substantiate the alleged patent infringement.

The court order sets an important precedent in India and encourages innovative companies like Huntsman to continue investing a significant portion of their turnover in R&D of new products that contribute to improving the sustainability of textiles through better fastness properties, higher durability and functionality.

ASTM International web portal provides instant access to standards

Web portals from ASTM International make it easy to access the most relevant standards, government regulations and referenced documents in one single place. **ASTM Web portals,** powered by Citation®, are interactive sites that include a specific collection of ASTM standards as well as other standards and documents chosen by the user. The portal allows multiple users to link between standards that are referenced, add notes or attachments for others to view, and make side-by-side comparisons of redlined standards. Currently, there are ASTM portals available for biodiesel, environmental due diligence and transportation, with more sector-specific portals under development. ASTM Web portals are also available as custom collections, which provide instant online access to a collection of ASTM and other standards tailored to fit the needs of your company or organization.

Color Fastness testing on textiles training course by the SDC and SGS in Pakistan

The SDC is the leading independent charity dedicated to advancing the science and technology of colour worldwide, by maintaining professional standards and improving the skills of coloration professional, enabling them to deliver exceptional results for their organizations.

SDC offer a range of industry-proven, internationally recognized qualifications and training courses. Taught by experts, and driven by what's happening in industry. Each year SDC helps thousands of people at every stage of learning and career development, with training, qualifications and resources.

The SDC has recently approved **SGS Pakistan** to administer the Certificate of Competence Course for Colour Fastness Testing and Textiles. The course to be held in August (4th and 5th) and October 2009 (12th and 13th) covers colour fastness development, British, European and International Standards for Colour fastness and Fabric Stability and also illustrates the principles testing procedures. This leads to an ISO Competence Certificate which shows that the recipient has a good level of understanding for the tests, equipment, grading, measurement and calculation of results and knowledge of all the testing standards from light fastness, to rubbing fastness through to Print durability.

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. With 53,000 employees, SGS operates a network of more than 1,000 offices and laboratories around the world.The SGS network comprises over 1,000 offices and laboratories and more than 56,000 employees around the world.

Bombay Rayon and DyStar agree on a strategic co-operation

DyStar, a leading supplier of dyes, auxiliaries and services to the textile industry and Bombay Rayon Fashion Limited (BRFL), one of India's largest apparel and fabric manufacturer have signed a co-operation agreement to be exclusive partners in the field of dyeing and printing for the plants of BRFL in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

BRFL is India's largest shirt manufacturer with an annual net sale of INR 13.4 billion and consolidated net profit of INR 1.37bn (US$ 28.6m). BRFL has fabric processing capacity of 150,000 meters and garment capacity of 100,000 per day in the State of Karnataka with an employee strength 30,000 in its various units in Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Company has chosen to undertake major expansion in its capacities by setting up Greenfield Units for yarn dyeing, weaving, processing and garmenting in the state of Maharashtra.

Mr. Prashant Agarwal, Managing Director of BRFL, is upbeat about the agreement: "DyStar has offered us outstanding technical support in setting up our dyeing and printing processes. With this agreement, we will have a reliable partner with an international reach, a wide product and service portfolio to meet requirements of our global customer base."

Mr. Rajesh Balakrishnan, Managing Director of DyStar India Private Limited stresses the importance of this partnership "BRFL's long term vision, awareness towards quality and ecological requirements go hand in hand with our commitment to provide complete textile solutions to our most valued customers. This agreement is an important milestone and we are extremely excited about it". ◆

Navis Global sells TM-100 Open-width compactor to Turkey

TM-100 over all machine.

Navis Global has sold and shipped a new model TM-100 Open Width Compactor to the ATT knitwear plant. The TM-100 is one of the newest open width knit compactor machines from Navis TubeTex

The TM-100 represents as expansion for ATT into more difficult and sensitive fabrics to better control shrinkage and weights over older belt compaction technology. The TM-100 production speed of over 40 meter per minute and compaction over 25% represent the further development of TubeTex's patented roll technology. The newer compaction station when coupled with the advance control system presents an energy savings of 25% over the older model that the TM-100 replaces.

Eco friendly textile co-operation: Tejidos Royo and Lenzing Fibers

Tejidos Royo and Lenzing Fibers have created the first **HYBRIDENIM collection** with TENCEL® and ORGANIC COTTON. The very first result, known as **E[DOS]**, is thus an important part of the overall HYBRIDENIM fabric collection from Tejidos Royo. This innovation will be presented at the Bread&Butter in Berlin from 1st – 3rd of July 2009.

Tejidos Royo is a family-run company which looks back on a history of more than 100 years. The company's headquarters are in Picasent/Valencia (Spain). From its beginnings as a producer of knitwear and fabrics, the company has developed since the eighties to become one of the leading spinning mills and producers of stretch fabrics with TENCEL®.

E[DOS] fabrics of TENCEL® are eco-friendly and they guarantee a unique, soft wear comfort and end user-friendly care properties. In addition they have a particularly shiny and luxurious appearance. These properties become possible as a result of combining organic cotton and TENCEL® fibers which convey special properties on the denim. An outstanding moisture management and a perceptible skin-friendly wear comfort are the outcome.

Another important advantage for the final consumer is that the fiber combination in E[DOS] denim requires only a low laundering temperature and has a reduced need for ironing. This can be explained by the special properties of the fibers used and is also expressed in the lower environmental impact – i.e. the lower need for energy when caring for these fabrics.

Tejidos Royo has many years of experience in the processing of organic cotton and the hybrid fabrics join forces with the know-how of Lenzing. Lenzing itself has worked with ecofriendly processes in fiber manufacturing for years.

In E[DOS] HYBRIDENIM, organic cotton is combined with TENCEL®. Tencel® itself is a cellulose fiber derived from eucalyptus cellulose and produced in an eco-friendly process. At the production and processing stages care is taken to treat basic resources with care i.e. to reduce the consumption of water and energy and the use of chemicals.

The recycling of fabrics and the gentle use of resources play an important role at Lenzing.

All of this leads to an excellent wear comfort for the end user in addition to the good feeling that they are wearing an eco-friendly product next to their skin.

Tejidos Royo and LENZING - cooperation with history Lenzing has co-operated with Tejidos Royo since 1991 which is one of the reasons for the success of this project. The experience and know-how of Tejidos Royo in cotton and cellulosic processing were essential when it comes to developing this product. Lenzing in turn boasts many years of experience as one of the world's largest cellulose fiber producers.

For further information: www.lenzing.com.

WELKER - MINIBOX conditioner & heat-setting machines

Werlker was founded in 1856. In 1941, the first and innovative vacuum steaming equipment was developed and successfully introduced to the market. Since then, Welker became the specialised company in the textile industry in the vacuum technology. Today, WELKER enjoys world wide reputation as manufacturer of reliable, safe, extremely robust and innovative machines. All WELKER machines are manufactured in Germany.

The Textile Industry is changing toward higher customisation, batches are getting smaller and plants have to be as flexible as possible. To meet these new requirements, MINIBOX is a newly developed basic design machine that incorporates all needed features of a conditioner for processes up to 105°C. MINIBOX machines are available in 3 basic models, namely:

- Standard ST,
- Ecotherm Eco and
- Ultraflat UF Eco.

For the models 100, 200 and 400, Welker recommends the ULTRAFLAT UF Type, which can be loaded directly via a small ramp. MINIBOX UF 100, 200 and 400 are also engineered as ULTRAFLAT model, with the following advantages:

- **No need of a pit:** the machine is assembled directly onto the factory ground, there is no need of any floor preparation underneath the machine. This makes the machine very flexible because it can be displaced at any time and it reduces installation cost.
- **Better space utilisation:** the space needed is much less than of a similar conventional cylindrical machine.
- **Loading and unloading:** easy loading/unloading via a ramp.
- **Reduction of energy cost:** last but not least, the ratio of energy:space: load is excellent due to the optimised volume utilisation.

Welker - Minibox.

The machinery programme comprises of following:

- CONDIBOX and MINIBOX for the conditioning of yarns and fabrics,
- VAPOMAT for heat setting of yarns,
- TOWMASTER for tow pre- shrinking of man made fibres,
- CONDIBOX G for moisturising of glass fibre yarns,
- STERIMASTER for sterilising of textile fabrics.

Noon International & Jaume Anglada Vinas S.A joined hands in Pakistan

Noon International is now the exclusive agents of Jaume Anglada Vinas S.A in Pakistan. Both of the companies have a very rich history in textile sector.

Jaume Anglada was founded more then 40 years ago and since then has been devoted to the manufacturing of textile finishing machines. The experience over this time with creative developments has allowed them to create and satisfy most sensitive and particular needs of textile customers. The company has reference in more then 35 countries around the world and 95% of their products are being exported every year.

The trademark of the company is **"Turbang"** which is a symbol of mechanical and electrical reliability all over the world and enables their customers to stand out from the competition. Certain advantages of Turbang System are short installation time and start up, maximum space utilization, continuous functioning, big drying yield and low energy consumption, etc.

The **Turbang product** line of Anglada includes padding and impregnating machine, open-width washing line, lint compactor filters, flock finishing lines, desizing machines, pile finshing machines, festoon dryers machines, continuous tumbler machines, tentering and stentering machines and artificial leather finishing lines. ◆