

Organizational and personnel changes at Rieter: Erwin Stoller as Executive Chairman

The Board of Directors of Rieter Holding Ltd. (Winterthur, Switzerland) has elected its Chairman Erwin Stoller as Executive



Chairman. The heads of both operating divisions of Rieter, Textile Systems and Automotive Systems, and the head of the Corporate Center will report directly to Erwin Stoller. In order to safeguard the principles of good corporate governance, This E. Schneider, Vice-Chairman of the Board, has been elected Lead Director. Hartmut Reuter, CEO of Rieter, will leave the company. The new organization takes immediate effect.

With this move, Rieter's Board of Directors is assuming greater responsibility at the operating level in a very difficult business environment and thus shortens the decision-making process. As a consequence of the financial and economic crisis the Rieter Group is having to cope with a slump of unprecedented proportions. As already announced in the spring of 2009, Rieter will report a significant operating loss in the current financial year.

On the basis of current information, Rieter will post a decline of some 50% in sales for the first six months of 2009 compared with the same period of the previous year and correspondingly a net loss of some 150 million CHF. Rieter will publish its final half-year figures on August 12, 2009. The Board of Directors expects the market environment to remain difficult for the next two years. The extensive restructuring measures initiated in 2008 call for further vigorous efforts. Rieter's Board of Directors is confident of achieving a turnaround in 2010 and reporting positive operating results in 2011.

Hartmut Reuter has been a member of Rieter's Group Executive Committee since 1997 and Group CEO since 2002. The Board conveys its thanks to Hartmut Reuter for his good work and wishes him all the best for the future.

Courtesy: Rieter Management AG .
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EDANA strengthens representation of the nonwovens industry with new board

EDANA, the association serving the nonwovens and related industries, recently announced its new Board of Governors.

Incoming Chairman Kenneth Strassner (Kimberley Clarke) will take over from Gerd Ries (Johnson&Johnson), who has accepted the position of Vice-Chair, a role he shares with Jean-Marie Becker (Ahlstrom). Paul Evers remains in his previous role as Treasurer.

In accepting his role, Strassner welcomed two new Board members; Mr Michael Haddon, Managing Director of TWE Nonwovens Dierdorf (Germany) and Mrs Patricia Featherstone, Commercial Director Europe for RKW (Belgium).

Outlining his vision, Strassner spoke of the essential support the Association continues to provide, supporting both individual businesses and the broader nonwovens and related the industries.

"While these are an essential part of the services our members are seeking, our role is beyond a forum for issues, or a way to share information about our industry.

The critical benefits we offer businesses are to help them through tough economic times and ensure that they are in a position to take full advantage of the recovery, when it comes.

This is possible not only through the various events and educational forums

that EDANA organises, but also in the identification and commitment to new ideas and technologies, and an innovative view of not only future products but also business practices."

In his thanks to the Board for their support during his term as Chair, Ries paid thanks to those Board Members who whose terms would come to an end in 2009, and would not continue. "The contribution made by Pieter Meijer and Stefano Lupi have been instrumental in the achievements made over the past years. We look forward however, to continuing to welcome these two individuals as active members of EDANA working groups and to their ongoing advice and counsel."

Americhem appoints new manager in fiber technology

Americhem Inc, a global provider of custom color and additive solutions for fibres and polymer-based products, recently added Michael Frisch as the company's new European fibres technology manager.

Mr. Frisch comes from Trevira to Americhem with an extensive background in customer service, fibre production and R&D.

His previous concentration includes yarn developments, with a special focus on solution-dyed yarns and masterbatch processing.

In this position, Mr. Frisch acts as a liaison between Americhem Europe and its customers, lab, sales department and markets. He is the official technical face of the company within the fibres market segment. ♦

Monforts appoint new head of sales

A. Monforts Textilmaschinen GmbH & Co. KG has appointed Mr. Gunnar Meyer as Sales Director making him responsible for the sales and forwarding department.

Forty Seven year old Gunnar has been with Monforts for many years and is currently Area Sales Manager for Asia. He replaces Mr. Wolfgang Kaphahn, the former Sales Managing Director. Roland Hampel, previously joint Managing Director, has been appointed Managing Director.



Mr. Gunnar Meyer, Sales Director, Monforts.