

Investor for DyStar

Indian Company Kiri Dyes & Chemicals Ltd. plans to take over four German sites and 36 international subsidiaries. Up to 800 jobs in Germany and some 2,000 worldwide may be saved. Creditor committees agree to purchase agreement – implementation due in January 2010.

Operations at DyStar Textilfarben GmbH and the production at three German sites are set to continue after the company found an investor in BSE-listed Indian manufacturer and supplier Kiri Dyes & Chemicals Ltd. (KDCL). "We have found an investor willing to buy the operations and the sites in Frankfurt/Main, Leverkusen, Ludwigshafen and Brunsbüttel. This means that up to 800 jobs in Germany and some 2,000 worldwide may be saved," insolvency administrator Miguel Grosser from the law firm JAFFÉ Rechtsanwälte Insolvenzverwalter and Dr. Stephan Laubereau from PLUTA Rechtsanwalts GmbH announced.

Under the purchase agreement signed recently, KDCL will take over the operations of the DyStar Group and its German sites in Frankfurt/Main, Leverkusen, Ludwigshafen and Brunsbüttel, along with 36 international subsidiaries. The Geretsried site is not included in the deal. "The concept presented by KDCL may make it possible to preserve the DyStar Group as a going concern," Grosser and Laubereau stressed.

The creditor committees have already agreed to the deal, which is still subject to the availability of financing, the necessary approvals by the Federal Cartel Office, and other conditions (consent of the banking consortium). KDCL has undertaken to secure the financing of the takeover of operations of the DyStar Group from the New Year. If all requirements are met as planned, the purchase agreement may be executed by January 2010.

This would set the stage for resuming productions at the Brunsbüttel and Leverkusen sites. The indigo production in Ludwigshafen will carry on without interruptions. "We will continue working on a solution for the Geretsried site, but we are still looking for potential investors here," Grosser and Laubereau said.

After opening insolvency proceedings on 1st December, DyStar Textilfarben GmbH continued full operations, the global supply of dyes, additives and services for the textile and leather processing industries, under the responsibility of insolvency administrator Miguel Grosser.

"With the help of KDCL we are in a position to offer staff at the sites in Frankfurt, Leverkusen, Ludwigshafen and Brunsbüttel a transfer company for employment and qualification. If the deal with KDCL is completed as planned, the latter will likely be able to reemploy the majority of those released from work as early as mid-January," Dr. Stephan Laubereau confirmed. "The exact details of the deal are still being negotiated."

After an intensive worldwide search for investors, three potential buyers remained in the final stages of negotiations. In the end, the concept of Ahmedabad-based Kiri Dyes & Chemicals Ltd. proved to be the most profitable. "Our negotiations over the last few days progressed quite quickly. This was due solely to excellent preparation and the professional attitude of all involved," Grosser and Laubereau affirmed.

Genencor: PrimaGreen® solutions for more sustainable denim finishing

Genencor, a division of Danisco A/S, today introduced PrimaGreen® EcoLight 1, the latest in the company's portfolio of products for more sustainable denim bleaching. The PrimaGreen® portfolio gives textile manufacturers the tools to produce denim apparel in a variety of finishes. In addition, with PrimaGreen®, denim can be stonewashed and bleached using a single bath, requiring significantly less water and energy than the established process.

Traditionally, in order to create a vintage-style look, denim is treated with hypochlorite using significant amounts of water and energy. PrimaGreen® EcoLight 1 is a liquid esterase enzyme that can be used to achieve the same look, but is biodegradable and made with renewable resources. In addition, when denim is treated with a combination of PrimaGreen® EcoLight 1 and PrimaGreen® Super, a cellulase enzyme, the vintage-style look can be achieved while cutting water by more than 50% and energy usage by more than 40%.

Similarly, treating denim with a combination of PrimaGreen® EcoFade LT100, a laccase enzyme, and PrimaGreen® Super creates an "aged" look while cutting water by more than 60% and energy usage by more than 70%. In addition, the use of PrimaGreen® EcoLight and PrimaGreen® EcoFade enables processors to change the garment cast and bleach sulphur-dyed denim.

"Today, textile manufacturers and consumers are looking for more environmentally friendly fashions without sacrificing style or quality," said Glenn Nedwin, executive vice president of Genencor's Technical Enzyme Business Unit. "The PrimaGreen® portfolio of products provides the tools to create just that kind of apparel."

The PrimaGreen® Portfolio Includes: PrimaGreen® Super, a cellulase enzyme used for low-temperature denim abrasion to create a "stone washed" look; and

- ❖ PrimaGreen® EcoFade LT100, a laccase enzyme for low-temperature denim fading to create an "aged" look.
- ❖ PrimaGreen® EcoLight 1, an esterase enzyme used for denim bleaching to create a "vintage" look.

Cognis opens new affiliate in Malaysia

Specialty chemicals supplier Cognis opened an affiliate in Selangor, Malaysia. Cognis Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Cognis Group. The aim is to accelerate the group's growth in the region by improving the level of service it offers to customers there. The decision to open an affiliate in Malaysia reflects the country's strategic importance to Cognis.

The Asia-Pacific region is now Cognis' third biggest market after Europe and North America, so it was a logical step for the company to devote more resources to its operations in this region. The founding of a dedicated Malaysian affiliate is in keeping with the company's focus on high-growth markets driven by the wellness and sustainability trends. It represents a significant milestone in Cognis' activities in the Malaysian market, which has experienced rapid growth in recent years. Cognis Malaysia will employ technical and commercial managers to work on behalf of all three of the company's strategic business units – Care Chemicals, Nutrition & Health, and Functional Products.

Jimmy Lau, Legal Representative of Cognis Malaysia, comments: "We believe that Malaysia and the whole Asia-Pacific region has significant growth potential that is fully in line with Cognis' strategy. By opening an affiliate in Malaysia, we want to gain a deeper understanding of the local market and be closer to our customers. We aim to double Cognis' sales in Malaysia over the next five years by helping our customers to gain the competitive edge they need to succeed." ♦