



PRESS RELEASE

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SO.F.TER. acquires PGroup and ranks among the top three compounders in Europe.

The wide range of solutions and the partnership with customers are the keys to success of SO.F.TER. Group.

SO.F.TER. announces the acquisition of **PGroup** in administration (www.p-group.biz), an Italian company based in Ferrara and specialized in the production of **Engineering Plastics** for the automotive and industrial sectors. The acquisition has been carried out through the subsidiary SO.F.TER. Tecnopolimeri Srl after completion of the voluntary arrangement procedure started by PGroup in 2010.

SO.F.TER. already took over PGroup through a leasing contract in April 2010: since then the management of the two companies has been working in close cooperation and succeeded in meeting all **obligations** towards customers and creditors and in preserving PGroup **employment level**.

“The acquisition of PGroup represents a significant step forward in our growth strategy and allows us to rank among the **top three independent compounders** in Europe in terms of volumes, with 120,000 tons projected sales for 2011” said Stefano Zocca, Managing Director of SO.F.TER. “The first and most important result of this operation is a remarkable increase of **the business with Germany**, where the SO.F.TER. Group strengthened its presence, particularly in the automotive industry. Moreover, the development of synergies in the production and commercial areas has just started and we expect to achieve important results in the near future” he added.

Within the current year, in fact, a **rationalization** of the Engineering Plastics production will take place both in the Forlì and Ferrara plants, aiming at a general service improvement by **specializing** the production sites and optimizing the supply chain.

The agreement will also broaden SO.F.TER. portfolio in the field of reinforced plastics, in which PGroup is specialized with the **Tecnoprene®** products, a brand that is acknowledged worldwide and homologated by the most important operators in the automotive business. Besides, the integration of copolyester, under



the **Pibiflex**[®] brand name, will complement SO.F.TER. Thermoplastic Elastomers range and will allow to approach new market segments.

The SO.F.TER. Group reached a turnover of EUR 150 million in 2010 in Europe and has two other companies in Mexico and Brazil.

COMPANIES

SO.F.TER. SPA (www.softerspa.com) develops and produces polymeric compounds for the manufacturing industry and is among the few specialists whose range of business goes from thermoplastic elastomers, to thermoplastic vulcanizates, to engineering plastics. Thanks to its world-class technological know-how SO.F.TER. can offer customized and integrated solutions, with a strong focus on the automotive, home appliances, building, electrical/electronic, footwear and sport industries. The SO.F.TER. Group has its headquarters in Forlì, Italy, with two other companies in Mexico and Brazil.

Products and Brands include **Thermoplastic Elastomers:** Forprene[®] (TPV), Forflex[®] (TPO), Laprene[®] (SEBS), Sofprene[®] (SBS), Sofpur[®] (TPU), Heraflex[®] P (TPO), Forgrin[®], Terra[®] (TPE for turf infill), Pavprene[®] (bitumen modifier) and **Engineering Plastics:** Polifor[®] (PP), Pibifor[®] (PBT), Nylfor[®] (PA6, PA66), Abistir[®] (ABS), Stirofor[®] (HI-PS), Cabofor[®] (PC), Blendfor[®] (PC/ABS), Norfor[®] (PPO), Sanfor[®] (SAN).

PGROUP (www.p-group.biz) is a leading manufacturer of high-end Engineering Plastics for the automotive and industrial sectors.

Products and Brands: Tecnoprene[®] (reinforced PP), Talcoprene[®], Carboprene[®] (filled PP), Nivionplast[®] (reinforced PA6 and PA66), Pibiflex[®] (copolyester), Pibiter[®] (PBT), Retelan[®] (ABS), Reblend[®] (PC/ABS), Restir[®] (PS).

MORE INFORMATION

Stefano Zocca, Managing Director SO.F.TER. SPA, e-mail: softer@softerspa.com

PRESS CONTACT

Roberta Ragonesi, Marketing & Communication SO.F.TER. SPA, e-mail: roberta.ragonesi@softerspa.com