

Dekra merges its material testing business areas

Dekra is combining its strengths in its German material testing business unit. The Dekra subsidiaries Dekra Material Testing (DMT) GmbH, Duisburg, Incos GmbH, Ingolstadt and W. Hofmann GmbH, Allershausen, are merging to form the new company Dekra Incos GmbH.

In recent years, Dekra's material testing and inspection business unit has undergone strategic development. In 2012, Dekra acquired Incos GmbH and W. Hofmann GmbH in order to establish the business unit, which is based in southern Germany and focuses on major customers. The Dekra material testing business unit employs more than 270 people at five locations.

"By merging the three German units, we can process larger orders more efficiently on the basis of consistent quality standards. This also brings us closer to our major international customers," said Achim Hetterich, CEO of the new company Dekra Incos GmbH, which has its headquarters in Ingolstadt. "We want to grow our traditional business even further and, in addition, we plan to expand our

range of special testing procedures so that we can increase our market share in that area."

The innovative, proprietary testing procedures being used at Dekra's Scandinavian subsidiaries are also to be adapted throughout Europe as part of the international expansion programme.

In addition to mechanical material testing, Dekra Incos specialises in the non-destructive testing of materials, such as radiography, ultrasonic and surface crack testing, leak testing, visual inspections and special testing procedures. The company also provides services such as inspections of technical systems and mechanical components, manufacturer approvals and construction and welding evaluations. ■

Planatol strengthens its sales team



Andreas Flohr joins the technical sales team at Planatol as business development manager.

Planatol Adhesive GmbH has appointed Andreas Flohr, who has already been working as a business development manager in the packaging adhesives division since 1 January 2013, to reinforce its technical sales team. Flohr has almost 30 years' experience in the field of packaging development and adhesives (at Henkel and H.B. Fuller among other companies).

Planatol's product portfolio in the field of packaging adhesives has been expanded to include special dispersion adhesives for nozzle and disc application, together with metallocene- and EVA-based packaging hot melts for producing folding boxes, corrugated board and end-of-line applications.

In April 2012, Wetzel Adhesive Solutions became part of the Planatol Group. Wetzel develops and markets a wide range of dispersion and hot melt adhesives for industrial applications, with a focus on the packaging, timber and furniture industries. ■

Global growth for Ardex

In order to strengthen its strategic position in Oceania, Ardex, the manufacturer of construction chemicals, has acquired a majority share in Cemix in New Zealand, a supplier of dry mortar and flooring materials.

Cemix is the Ardex Group's second company in New Zealand. Ardex New Zealand, which is based in Christchurch, has been supplying sealants in the region for several years. In future, the two companies will retain their individual brand and service profiles. However, both will benefit from synergies in areas such as production, sales and purchasing.

Ardex currently employs 2010 people worldwide and has production facilities and sales companies in Australia, Austria, the Benelux countries, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dubai, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, the USA and Vietnam. ■