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Siegwerk acquires packaging ink business from Swiss group SICPA

The Siegwerk Group International, headquartered in Siegburg near Cologne (Germany), has closed its acquisition of the packaging ink activities of Swiss group SICPA Holding SA. This agreement took place on September 8 in London, after approval from the relevant antitrust authorities.

The new entity will be called Siegwerk Ink Packaging, an operating company of the holding company Siegwerk Group International. Siegwerk Group International also holds a second operating company, Siegwerk Ink Publication.

Siegwerk Ink Packaging is one of the world's leading producers of advanced packaging ink for high quality packaging. The product range includes advanced ink for flexible packaging, tobacco packaging, labels, paper & board, sheet fed & UV and decorative applications. Siegwerk Ink Publication includes the business units Publication Gravure (market leader in Europe and Latin America), and Web Offset, a rapidly growing player in Europe. The newly combined Siegwerk Group is the world's largest Europe-based printing ink company.

SICPA SA will retain its activities in security ink and security systems and will continue operating from its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"The people working for Siegwerk and SICPA both come from a background

shaped by a family-driven business culture focused on high quality and customer relationships," said Herbert Forker, CEO of Siegwerk Group International. "As a result, our newly combined entity is ideally positioned for developing truly customized business solutions for each customer, large international clients as well as local packaging printers, in a way that leverages the expertise in the Siegwerk Technical Center in Siegburg and the application engineering support of the SICPA global network."

While maintaining its traditionally strong market position in Central Europe, the company will also focus on the growth markets in Southern and Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America.

"In Asia, for example," said Forker, "market researchers are expecting the production of quality packaging products to increase tenfold by 2010. Similarly, consumer buying patterns in Southern and Eastern Europe are shifting towards increased purchasing of packaged goods. Thanks to our rigorous focus on quality packaging ink, we anticipate having a significant share in this growth."

In the NAFTA region, Siegwerk Ink Packaging is also well-positioned through its 2003 acquisition of Color Converting (CCI).

Siegwerk Ink Publication also holds leading positions in its markets. As European market leader, the business unit Publication Gravure has successfully faced recent consolidations on the customer side. Web Offset has, following a switch in strategy, posted double-digit growth, establishing the operation as a successful player in European markets.

Siegwerk Group International
With 4,100 employees and annual sales of €773 million, Siegwerk Group International is the world's largest Europe-based ink company. A company that

now has subsidiaries throughout the world, it was originally established in 1830, making it one of the oldest family-owned businesses in Europe. Countless patent applications have shown Siegwerk Group International to be the industry's most innovative company worldwide. In the field of advanced packaging ink, the company is the global market leader. In publication gravure, Siegwerk Group International is market leader in Europe and Latin America, and No. 3 in North America. In web offset the company is one of Europe's fastest-growing players in the industry.

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