SIEGWERK

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Siegwerk plans acquisition of SICPA's packaging ink business

The Siegwerk Group, headquartered in Siegburg near Cologne (Germany), plans to acquire the packaging ink division of SICPA Holding SA. A corresponding purchase agreement was signed in London. With consolidated total net sales of 613 million euro in the packaging ink segment (global market volume: 4.4 billion euro), the Siegwerk Group would emerge as the world's second-largest manufacturer of packaging ink. The Siegwerk Group, with a 175 year old history, would move up to become one of the world's top five ink manufacturers with consolidated total net sales of 773 million euro (global market volume 10.4 billion euro). Regulatory approval is expected from the anti-trust authorities in the course of the summer months. SICPA Holding SA will continue to operate its security ink and systems business out of its headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland).

"The acquisition is a major step towards the Siegwerk Group consolidating its worldwide presence and positioning as a global player," stated the President and CEO of Siegwerk, Herbert Forker. "We can now supply globally operating converters as well as national clients in every country in the world and support them in application engineering. This also makes us an interesting partner for the major brand companies."

The new Siegwerk Group packaging structure combines the reputation of these two highly successful ink manufacturers for product quality and excellence in customer service.

The new group will possess an enhanced capability to meet worldwide located customer requirements. Siegwerk Group is well positioned in Central Europe, Eastern Europe, North Africa, South-East Asia and, since the purchase of CCI in December 2003, also in the USA. SICPA's Packaging Ink Division supplements this positioning with its strong presence in Southern Europe, Turkey, Scandinavia and Russia including its neighboring states, South Africa, Canada, Mexico, South America as well as in China, India and Australia.

On the product side the expertise of Siegwerk Group in the areas of film and foil printing (flexible packagings for foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and hygiene items), paper labels (high-quality labels for bottled drinks) and wallpaper printing is being expanded by the know-how of SICPA's Packaging Ink Division in tobacco packaging and labels, as well as in the corrugated board sector and with other applications.

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