

Wrede planning to jettison its other shareholdings too

Parallel to the sale process initiated for the Interprint group in December 2018, Wrede Industrieholding GmbH & Co. KG of Arnsberg, Germany, is also looking for a buyer for the plastics processing company Keeeper GmbH of Stenwedde and for the 49.2% stake held in Arcolor Holding AG of Waldstatt, Switzerland, through Wrede Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH. The 50% share previously held in the gravure joint venture Asia Pacific Engravers Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (APE) of Nilai, however, has meanwhile been sold to the joint-venture partner Janoschka Holding GmbH of Kippenheim, Germany. Following the full takeover, Janoschka renamed the company Janoschka Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., which can produce roughly 12,000 gravure cylinders (10% of which are laser cylinders), 2,000 reproductions, and 10,000 colour separations with 150 employees.

Wrede Industrieholding's intention behind transferring the APE share to Janoschka and the ongoing sale processes for Interprint, Keeeper, and Arcolor is to part with all of the shareholdings. In the release relating to the sales plans for the Interprint group published on 4 December 2018, this decision was attributed to successor considerations within the Wrede family. The sale process for Interprint coordinated through the Frankfurt office of the corporate consultants Roland Berger Holding GmbH has been gradually pushed forward since then. According to unconfirmed information, a decision is to be taken before the end of the second quarter. The sale process for Keeeper GmbH, which emerged from the former OKT group, is said to be at a relatively advanced stage as well. Concrete negotiations are also being conducted for the stake in Arcolor Holding. The company holds all the shares in the printing-inks manufacturer Arcolor AG; the partner in the joint venture is Schattdecor AG of Thansau.

The Interprint group forms Wrede Industrieholding's "Decorative Surfaces" division. The "Household products" division comprises Keeeper GmbH. The group has abandoned the plans it had pursued for quite some time for setting up a third division. □

Renolit finds a furniture foils joint venture in China

On 1 April 2019, the foil manufacturer Renolit SE, based in Worms, Germany, started making 2D and 3D foils for furniture and interior manufacturing in China's Guangdong Province via its joint venture Guangdong Renolit Citiking, which was founded at the end of March. The joint venture partners are Renolit, Renolit's Chinese distribution partner Citiking Trade Co. Ltd., based in Shanghai, and its previous owner Dongtang. Renolit holds the majority stake. The plant that Dongtang contributed to the joint venture is equipped with three printing machines and three embossing machines; altogether, it employs some 60 workers. Besides making standard foils, these machines can also produce high-gloss and super matte surfaces. At Renolit, the joint venture will be part of the Renolit Design business unit, which specialises in plastic foils for furniture and interior design and is managed by Karsten Jänicke. Citiking has until now been Renolit Design's main distribution partner in China.

Until now, Renolit has delivered 2D and 3D foils to customers in the Chinese furniture and interior door industry via the Guangzhou plant. The group operates four more production sites for other applications in China. Altogether, Renolit employs about 1,000 people in China. The Renolit group generated revenues of €1.031bn (2017: 1.016bn) at 30 production and distribution sites employing some 4,700 people in more than 20 countries in the 2018 financial year. □

FiliGrade and Schattdecor looking for more licensees

FiliGrade Printed Watermarks B.V., a company specialising in developing and using smartphone-enabled watermarks based in Twello, the Netherlands, and Schattdecor AG, headquartered in Thansau, Germany, want to land more licensees for its copy protection for printed decors unveiled at the Interzum fair in Cologne. The technology developed jointly by the two companies should, therefore, gain a foothold as an industry solution. Surteco

GmbH, headquartered in Bittenwiesen-Pfaffenhofen, Germany, had been the first company to get on board a while ago. Its presentation at Interzum aimed to target other companies active in decor development and printed decors. At the same time, the technology's technical options were presented, which can also be used for proof of decor copies that will stand up in court. With this proof, Schattdecor also intends to take action against companies that copy decors or market semi-finished or finished products with copied decors in the future.

The technology developed by FiliGrade and Schattdecor consists of an app, which can identify each decor and its printer using an integrated decor scanner and downstream server. Identification takes place using a technical characteristic stored in the printing and/or engraving file. The app and an associated website will then list information about the decor and printer. This key data can still be combined with additional information that can also be used for distribution purposes. A direct determination of whether the item is a copy cannot be made, but can be achieved by providing additional technical details.

Back in 2012, Schattdecor had started work to develop a decor identification app. Since 2015, the company has been working together with FiliGrade in this area. Development approaches pursued by Schattdecor have been combined with FiliGrade technology. Schattdecor had unveiled a decor identification system on this basis at Interzum 2017. Surteco's subsidiary Surteco art GmbH, based in Willich, Germany, started equipping its developed decors with FiliGrade watermarks in April 2018. □

Schattdecor setting up fourth treater in Brazil

Following the optimisation of the infrastructure completed at the São José dos Pinhais impregnating facility in Paraná, Brazil, at the end of May 2018, Schattdecor AG of Thansau, Germany, is also going to continue to enlarge the

production capacity. In addition to the three existing treaters, a new impregnating channel is going to be installed during the course of the next few months, which is then scheduled to start up by the beginning of 2020. At the plant taken over from Coveright Surfaces Holding GmbH of Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany, in January 2013, Schattdecor had last put a 2,800 mm-wide impregnating channel into operation in March 2015, replacing an existing treater. In preparation for the now concretised expansion investment, Schattdecor had set up facilities such as a new production hall and warehouse at the impregnating plant as well as an impregnating-resin production of its own. In its business year 2018, Schattdecor produced roughly 70m m² of melamine film with the currently three impregnating channels in São José dos Pinhais. □

Lamigraf and BMK planning cooperation

The decor printer Lamigraf S.A. of L'Ametlla del Vallès, Spain, and the impregnator BMK GmbH of Gaildorf-Bröckingen, Germany, have come to an agreement on closer cooperation in sales. Both companies signed a corresponding memorandum of understanding at the end of April 2019. Lamigraf will have its printed decors impregnated by BMK in future and become co-distributor of melamine films. In return, BMK will sell Lamigraf decors in certain markets. This will enable the two companies to offer their customers a combination of printed decors and impregnation in future. In addition, the cooperative venture is also intended to extend sales operations into markets that have not yet been worked as intensively as others. BMK is also hoping that its alliance with Lamigraf will help to improve its market position in countries such as Brazil. The alliance does not affect BMK's existing cooperation with other printers or Lamigraf's with other impregnators and will remain unchanged in their present form.

BMK operates two sites in Germany, one facility in the USA, and meanwhile 17

impregnating channels at a joint venture in Russia. Lamigraf produces its decors on eleven printing machines at three sites in Spain, Germany, and Brazil. □

Third BMK treater in Welcome to start up



(Photo credit: BMK)

The impregnator BMK GmbH of Gaildorf-Bröckingen, Germany, has completed the mechanical installation of the third impregnation channel at the facility in Welcome, North Carolina, trading under the name of BMK Americas LLC. The start-up has been scheduled for the end of May or the early June. The additional channel is to be used above all for impregnating decor paper in small batches and special products, such as melamine films for deep grains, in future. BMK had purchased the impregnation channel as a used machine from the former Faus Group Inc. of Dalton, Georgia, in September 2017. In the course of the relocation, the working width was increased from 4 ft to 5 ft along with the installation of an anilox-roller application unit. BMK had engaged Imaco Technology Development Co. Ltd. of Suzhou in Jiangsu province, China, for the conversion work on the channel that had been supplied by the former Vits Systems GmbH of Langenfeld, Germany, to Faus Group in 2006. Parallel to the channel refit, BMK also installed a new resin mixing/dosing plant at the Welcome facility.

At the Welcome impregnating plant taken over from Shaw Industries Inc. of Dalton, Georgia, on 1 October 2017, BMK currently operates two 9 ft-wide impregnating channels that had been delivered by the former Vits Maschinenbau GmbH of Langenfeld to the previous owner Dynea Overlays Inc. of Tacoma,

Washington, in 2000. According to BMK, both lines, which produce flooring films and commodities for the laminating industry (white and solid-colour films), have been running at normal capacity utilisation for quite some time. Specialities are currently still supplied from the Erndtebrück-Schameder facility trading under the name of Dekor-Kunststoffe GmbH (DKB). Following the start-up of the third channel, these exports are to be redirected to other overseas markets, particularly South America.

The BMK group currently operates a total of 16 impregnating channels at the facilities in Gaildorf-Bröckingen, Erndtebrück-Schameder, Welcome, and at the joint venture OOO Interprint Samara of Samara, Russia. Of these, three of the older plants are only operated sporadically, however. □

CDG reports a downturn in revenues

The decor paper manufacturer Cartiere de Guarcino S.p.A. (CDG), which is based in Guarcino, Italy, and owned by the Neodecortech group, encountered a decrease in its revenues in the 2018 financial year. According to Neodecortech's annual report, which was published on 15 April, CDG's total revenues were 2.9% lower than the previous year at €65.4m (2017: 67.4m). While revenues from printing base paper increased slightly to €25.8m (25.2m) on the back of higher internal deliveries to Neodecortech's printing plant, its biggest product category Unicours suffered a downturn in revenues to €29.2m (34.1m). Backer paper revenues increased to €8.0m (6.5m). Revenues from underlay paper reached €0.6m (0.5m); its new kraft paper business added €446,000. Services' contribution improved to €1.4m (1.0m). Increased internal deliveries sent Italian revenues higher to €26.4m (20.7m). Revenues reached €32.7m (38.8m) in the rest of Europe, €3.8m (4.6m) in the Americas and €2.5m (3.3m) in Asia.

Adjusted for internal deliveries, CDG booked total revenues of €50.8m