



Comunicato Stampa

Press Release

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Diatec consolidates its Swiss industrial activities to optimize utilization of its most modern factory in Bern, Switzerland.

Diatec Group, headquartered in Cles, Italy, announced today its intention to consolidate its Swiss manufacturing activities into its Bern, Switzerland, facility. The Bern factory, opened in 2001, will take over the manufacturing activities of Star Coating located in Niederhasli, Switzerland. Sihl AG, Diatec Group's Swiss subsidiary, acquired Star Coating in April, 2012. According to Christian Steeb, Managing Director for Sihl AG, *"much of the attraction for acquiring Star Coating was the similarity of their product line to that of Sihl AG in Bern. The Bern factory has sufficient capacity to absorb the production volume, is equipped with state-of-the-art manufacturing and environmental controls, and can run the combined businesses with reduced cost as we eliminate redundancy in factory, logistic, and back-office staff."*

Production in Niederhasli will wind down to a final stop in April, 2013. The needs of Star Customers buying Digital Imaging media, primarily inkjet and toner receptive films and papers, will be transferred to Sihl AG. Customers buying Star's line of diazo photo-tools, films used extensively in the printed circuit and consumer electronics industry, will as well be transferred to Sihl AG. Star Customers buying label face materials will be transferred either to Sihl GmbH Germany, or to Diatec's USA subsidiary, Arkwright, to align Diatec's global manufacturing footprint with the global footprint of these industrial customers.

Steeb went on to say, *"Sihl AG, together with Sihl GmbH and Arkwright, have built up a critical mass of product development, quality and environmental management, and logistical competence that will deliver real benefits to Star's customers in the form of better and more reliable product performance, and increased supply-chain confidence. Our goal is to make the transition from Niederhasli to Bern as easy and seamless as possible. **We welcome all of Star's customers into the Sihl family of customers.**"*

About Sihl AG ... tracing its origins to the year 1945, the former producer of drafting papers and films is now one of the leading producers of coated papers, films, and specialty substrates that are used to digitally print signs, posters, advertising and trade-show graphics, and fine-art reproductions. With about 90 employees, annual sales exceed 40 million CHF. The company is one of a growing number of advanced manufacturing firms that call central Switzerland "home".

About Diatec Group ... tracing its origins to the year 1972, this one-time producer of diazo paper for blue-prints and engineering documents, is now a global manufacturing enterprise with factories in Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany and the United States. Headquartered in Cles, Italy, the privately held firm employs more than 800 people, generates about 200 million Euros in annual sales, and supplies customers in more than 80 countries around the globe.