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Collano Group: Semi-annual report 2009

The Collano Group, the adhesives specialist headquartered in Sempach-Station near Luzern, reports a 28% decline in sales to CHF 52.5 million (previous year CHF 73 million) for the first half of 2009. Despite signs of a recovery in the automobile sector, Collano does not expect to be able to recoup the shortfall in sales versus the prior year. In the medium term, however, a number of interesting projects that are currently underway, some of them new, justify optimism. For instance, group member nolax recently filed a patent application for a novel medical material intended for wound dressings.

In the period under review, the economic crisis depressed the demand from global industrial markets for specialty adhesives to a low level. Adhesives systems used by the automobile industry as well as by technical textiles and foam manufacturers were most heavily affected by the downtrend.

Conversely, the impact was less severe in adhesives systems for the construction industry and for medical applications; to some extent, sales of such products matched prior-year levels.

The Collano Group responded to the slump in sales with group-wide austerity measures, including short-time work at the production plants, but also with intensified market servicing activities. The employees of Collano Services production facilities at sites in Switzerland (Schmitten, Sempach-Station, and Sursee) have been working reduced hours since early this year and since mid-March, respectively.

Outlook

In the light of the difficult baseline conditions, Collano has been able to confirm the effectiveness of the new group strategy introduced in 2008. It involved the creation of three independent operating companies that are focused on their core competencies – system innovations, specialty adhesives, and production.

Collano Group

The Collano Group is an independent specialist for adhesive and bonding systems headquartered in Switzerland (Sempach-Station). Worldwide, the group employs 340 persons at sites in Switzerland, Germany, France, and the USA. Sales in 2008 closed at CHF 130.7 million. Since 2009, the Collano Group has been serving its markets with three independent companies.

nolax | The first knowledge and innovation resource for radical system developments in bonding technology. nolax implements new concepts with surprising material and technology combinations focusing on the automotive, construction, medical, and security segments.

Collano Adhesives | The company for the refinement and distribution of Collano's specialty adhesives for industrial and commercial applications. Specialized in established products and sophisticated, customized adhesive bonds with a focus on applications in Construction, Composites, Label/Tape/Packaging, Protective Systems, Technical Textiles/Apparel, and Foams.

Collano Services | The service provider within the Collano Group. Specialized in production, process technology, and logistics as well as complementary services in the domains of finance, accounting, human resources, and IT.

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