



Strategic focus of Sympatex and strengthening of Ploucquet's market position through acquisition by Kufner Group

Acquisition of Ploucquet GmbH by Kufner Group strengthens production site in Zittau and enables Sympatex to focus on expansion in the field of sustainable functional materials.

Munich / Zittau, 21th April 2016 – The Munich-based Kufner Group will take over Ploucquet GmbH from Smart Solutions Holding GmbH (formerly Sympatex Holding GmbH) with effect from 20th April 2016. The sale of the company and the production site in Zittau is also the beginning of a long-term production partnership between the two well-established textile companies and Sympatex. The lamination as well as the finishing of technical textiles will also be carried out for Sympatex by the Kufner Group at the acquired site in Upper Lusatia. The integration of the Ploucquet brand into the Kufner Group will strengthen the competitiveness of the company in Zittau with 124 employees in the long run.

The Kufner Group, one of the world's leading companies for interlining and technical textiles, will take over an important treatment provider with a modern production in Saxony by acquiring the Ploucquet GmbH. The company was founded in 1806 and looks back on a long tradition as part of the international textile industry. Today, Ploucquet is a market leader regarding the production and the distribution of lining material and a specialist for the treatment of technical textiles. "It has been our target to find a perfect partner for Ploucquet in order to secure the efficient production site Zittau in Central Europe, which is important to us, and to offer the employees in Upper Lusatia a solid perspective for the further development there. Kufner meets all of our demands in an almost ideal way," explains Michael Kamm, managing director of Sympatex, who is pleased about the contract conclusion. "We have complementary products that can be perfectly combined with each other in the segment of fashion textiles as well as technical textiles," adds Mr Kamm.

Ulrich Sogl, managing director of the Kufner Group, adds: "We share the same values, we have the same goals and serve identical markets. Moreover, Kufner is very well positioned on the international market. With our international distribution structure, we will strengthen the Ploucquet brand and use the capacity of the production site in Zittau even more."



For the Smart Solutions Holding GmbH as the parent company of Sympatex Technologies GmbH, the sale is a decisive strategic requirement for the future focus on the Sympatex brand and its important growing market of sustainable functional textiles. "With the additional resources that we gain from selling the Ploucquet GmbH, we will keep developing the internationalisation within our three main business areas Footwear, Apparel as well as Contract & Workwear," says Michael Kamm. "Thus, we can increase the chances of reaching our turnover and profit targets," he adds.

Ploucquet GmbH has been a competent treatment partner for textile solutions since **1806**. As one of the leading European suppliers, Ploucquet develops, produces and distributes innovative and ecological textiles worldwide in the areas of apparel and technical applications.

Finishing, coating and lamination technologies are characterised by high technical competence and offer new application areas due to various possibilities of technical processes. The focus of the textile finishing of fabrics, knitted fabrics and nonwoven fabrics lies on the pretreatment, colouration, dressing, print, treatment, coating as well as on the lamination processing. www.ploucquet.com

The company Kufner was founded in **1862** as a cotton factory for the clothing industry. Today, the Kufner Group is one of the world's leading companies for interlining and technical textiles, especially for the automotive industry. The Kufner Group today owns four factories on two continents. More than twenty of their own distribution companies secure a worldwide presence. www.kufner.com

Together with selected partners, the **Sympatex** has globally developed, produced and distributed membranes, laminates and functional textiles as well as finished products (especially jackets, suits and shoes) and customer-specific end products for various applications since **1986**. Via the business division Sympatex Technologies GmbH, the Sympatex Group offers breathable, 100% waterproof and 100% windproof materials with completely recyclable membranes in the fields of sportswear, footwear, contract & workwear, technical applications as well as accessories. Sympatex Technologies has sales offices and branches all over the world. Since February 2016, the parent company formerly known as Sympatex Holding GmbH has operated under the name of Smart Solutions Holding GmbH. www.sympatex.com

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