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Lenzing and Circle intend to collaborate on regenerated fibers

Lenzing and Circle have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop and commercialize regenerated fibers.

The intended objective of this cooperation is to grow the regenerated fiber business globally. This would combine Circle's expertise and proprietary technology with Lenzing's world-wide network in supplying sustainable fibers to the nonwoven and textiles industry.

Circle is the world leader in fiber regeneration technology. The Circle process recovers material from textile manufacturers and converts it into high quality fibers for both nonwoven and textile applications.

Friedrich Weninger, Lenzing management board member, comments: "As a leading producer of renewable cellulose fibers, regenerated cotton is a natural extension to Lenzing's existing portfolio. The regeneration of valuable raw materials is good for the environment and the industry."

"The unique market and technical synergies of our two companies offer a game changing opportunity in a world looking for sustainable alternatives" states Joy Nunn, CEO of Circle 360, LLC.

The Lenzing Group can look back on more than 80 years of experience in manufacture and marketing of cellulose fibers. Continuous improvement and innovative technologies have made Lenzing's fiber production processes best in class in terms of product quality and environmental impact.

Circle has spent the last 25 years, researching the science of waste ReGeneration. Joy Nunn adds: "The Circle™ technology is used by our partners to transform a manufacturing liability into a strategic asset." Circle owns a number of unique patents covering proprietary technology, software and business processes to enable ReGeneration.

THE LENZING GROUP

The Lenzing Group is an international group of companies. The Lenzing headquarters in Austria coordinate our production sites in all major markets and our global network of sales and marketing offices. Lenzing provides the global textile and nonwovens industry with high-quality cellulose fibers. We are the leading supplier in many business-to-business markets – from special cellulose fibers to high-tech plastics polymers.

Seventy years of fiber production expertise make us the only producer world-wide of all three man-made cellulose fiber generations, from classic viscose to lyocell and modal. Lenzing's unique combination of consistent customer orientation with leadership in quality, innovation and technology is the foundation of our success.

Lenzing is committed to the principles of sustainable management and very high environmental standards.

Lenzing's core business fibers is complemented by our activities in business fields plastics as well as engineering.

Key Figures 2008:

Sales: EUR 1.33 bill.
Export share: 86%
Fiber Production: 540,300 tons
Staff: 5,945

CIRCLE

Circle™ is a global leader in regeneration technology. Circle™ is the core of the Sustainable Solutions Network, responsible for product creation and intellectual property as it relates to the manufacturing of sustainable ReGenerated fibers from textiles and Smartstreams™.

This includes the assessment, management and positioning of strategic Smartstreams™ to create the most holistic footprint for innovative and performance driven new products.

Circle™ has spent collectively 25 years developing the science ReGeneration, which allows our retail and manufacturing partners to turn the liability of (waste) into a strategic asset. Circle™ delivers ReGenerated, sustainable fibers created from these Smartstreams™ to the nonwoven and textiles industries.