

## **Fedrigoni announces two new strategic deals: an industrial partnership with a specialty paper mill in China and the acquisition of an R&D Centre in France. Both operations were formerly part of the Arjowiggins Group.**

*The first transaction is aimed at strengthening its presence in the Asian market, the second is a further step to reinforce its research, development, and innovation capabilities in the RFID, printed electronics, and advanced research on paper substrates*

Milan, 7 February 2023 - The Fedrigoni Group, the world's leading producer of high-end specialty papers for luxury packaging and other creative applications, premium labels, and self-adhesive materials, has entered into two strategic agreements: firstly, a manufacturing partnership with a specialty paper mill, producer of translucent papers in Quzhou, Zhejiang province, China. As part of the deal, Fedrigoni has provided a loan to an acquisition vehicle, set up by two former Arjowiggins senior executives, in consideration for a call option giving Fedrigoni the option to take over the company in the longer term. Secondly, the acquisition of a dedicated research and development centre in Grenoble, France, which will allow Fedrigoni to boost its product innovation roadmap in RFID, printed electronics, and advanced research on paper substrates. Both realities were formerly part of the Arjowiggins Group, which filed for administration last September.

With 130 employees and an annual production capacity of 7,000 tonnes, the Quzhou mill is a world-leading manufacturer of translucent papers (sold under the brands Gateway, Idem and Sylvicta) for applications ranging from industrial design and graphic applications to packaging for food, consumer electronics and luxury products. Fedrigoni will therefore strengthen its presence in the Asian market – where the group already has a wide distribution network in China, Hong Kong, Philippines, Indonesia, and Bangladesh, 11 warehouses and a self-adhesive materials production plant in Hefei – with its first paper mill in China. Besides strengthening its geographical footprint in Asia, this transaction will lead Fedrigoni to further expand its product portfolio in the translucent papers segment by acquiring manufacturing capabilities, which has the potential to increasingly replace plastic in packaging as a fully recyclable mono-material thanks to the award winning Sylvicta brand. Product innovation linked to the transition from plastic to paper is one of the largest investment areas for Fedrigoni and a key pillar of its ESG strategy and roadmap towards 2030.

On the other hand, the acquisition of the dedicated R&D Centre in Grenoble - with its people, equipment, patents, and brands, including the related Powercoat brand - will enhance Fedrigoni's capabilities in testing and prototyping RFID, printed electronics, and advanced research on paper substrates. The areas of applications are innumerable both in the self-adhesive labels and luxury packaging markets: from solutions to protect brands from counterfeiting to the traceability of products and goods, including for sustainability purposes (e.g., monitoring transport-related CO2 emissions), to the ability to offer end consumers an exclusive and personalized experience with the product and packaging through digital interactions. Thanks to this deal Fedrigoni will also boost its innovation capability in the field of alternative pulp-based materials, benefiting from the relationships with the existing ecosystem, particularly in the Grenoble area, with entities such as the International Paper Engineering School Grenoble INP - PAGORA and the Pulp and Paper Research & Technical Centre (CTP).



Fedrigoni – in spite of the situation of world instability and geopolitical volatility – continues its path of strategic expansion to consolidate its position as a global player in specialty papers after the recent acquisitions of Guarro Casas in Spain (formerly part of Arjowiggins Group), Papeterie Zuber Rieder in France, and the industrial partnership with Mohawk Fine Papers in the USA.

## **Fedrigoni**

Established in 1888, today Fedrigoni means excellence in the world of labels and self-adhesive materials and high added value papers for luxury packaging and other creative solutions. With over 5.000 employees in 28 countries and 25000 products, the Group sells and distributes in 132 countries and, thanks to the recent acquisitions, has become the first player at global level in specialty papers for luxury packaging and the third player in premium self-adhesive materials. The Paper business unit includes the Cordenons Group, the historic brand Fabriano, and most recently Guarro Casas (October 2022) and Papeterie Zuber Rieder (November 2022). The Self-Adhesives business unit includes Arconvert, Manter, Ritrama (since February 2020), IP Venus (December 2020), Acucote and Rimark (June 2021), Divipa (February 2022), Tageos (April 2022), Unifol (July 2022). Furthermore, the American distributor GPA is also part of the Group.

For more information: [www.fedrigoni.com](http://www.fedrigoni.com)

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