



## Beaulieu Fibres International launches new products and previews future innovations for hygiene nonwovens at INDEX™17

- New fibre-platform Meralux to launch at Index™17
- Announcing short cut fibres for hygiene available by summer 2017
- Presenting new PET core BICOs alongside full diversified fibre portfolio at Stand 1340, Index™17, 4-7 April, Geneva

Wielsbeke, Belgium – March 9, 2017 – Beaulieu Fibres International, the leading European polyolefin fibre supplier, will unveil a pioneering new fibre-platform at Index™17 and offer first detailed insights into the future-focused hygiene products arising from its on-going investment in innovation and manufacturing capabilities (Stand 1340).

From May 2017, **Meralux fibres** will be added to the Meraklon product portfolio. First test results show that nonwovens made with the new Meralux fibre combinations have a higher loft/bulk. Meralux's coverage is unique and provides nonwovens with a very closed surface, without containing additives like TiO<sub>2</sub>. With the higher loft and unique coverage, softness will be provided by the choice of raw materials. Equipped with all these features, Meralux allows basis weight reductions without losing performance. Index17 visitors can experience nonwovens based on Meralux at Stand 1340.

In line with the further diversification of its products, Beaulieu Fibres International is set to produce **short cut fibres** for hygiene application as of summer 2017. These will be available in cut lengths of 3-24mm in polypropylene (PP) mono and BICO.

To add to its new products for 2017, the Meraklon portfolio will expand further with the launch of new **polyester (PET) core BICO fibres**. They will come on stream with Meraklon's new state-of-the-art, long spin line at the company's site in Terni, Italy. The EUR 30 million investment to extend production capacity is currently underway and is scheduled to commence operations during this year.

Petra Bohle-Stricker, Global Sales Director- Hygiene, Beaulieu Fibres International, comments: "Beaulieu Fibres International is continuing to strengthen its position as a global supplier for polyolefin fibres. Investment in fibres' production is an important driver for ensuring we meet future challenges and customers' needs. In the four years since Meraklon's takeover, Beaulieu Fibres International has successfully adapted it to the level required to be a leading market player. We have broadened the portfolio significantly to better serve the future market needs and are continually innovating to ensure we go the extra mile for the nonwovens industry".

– End of press release –



## Beaulieu Fibres International

Beaulieu Fibres International is the biggest European producer of polypropylene staple fibre (PP fibre). The company is part of the Engineered Products Business Unit of Beaulieu International Group, with headquarters in Belgium.

Beaulieu Fibres International has three production sites in Europe – two in Belgium and one in Italy. It supplies PP fibres with densities of 1,0 to 500 dtex to customers in industries such as Hygiene, Geotextiles, Floorcoverings, Automotive, Filtration and Upholstery. Our broad portfolio includes ultrasoft fibres, high elongation fibres, coloured fibres and fibres with various cross-sections, including trilobal, suitable for a wide range of processing technologies. Beaulieu Fibres International can count on 220 employees and in 2016 reported a turnover of 200 Mio EURO.

## Beaulieu International Group

Beaulieu International Group (B.I.G.) is a renowned international group with a strong position in the raw materials and semi-finished products market. Its solutions also include a wide range of finished floor coverings. Beaulieu International Group has 4.500 employees in 29 plants, 11 sales offices and 8 distribution plants spread across 16 countries. In 2016, the Beaulieu International Group's turnover was 1.7 billion EURO.

## Meraklon

Meraklon was established in 1960 in Terni (Umbria – Italy). The fibres business of Meraklon S.p.A. was acquired by Beaulieu Fibres International (B.F.I.) in August 2013. The main areas of fibres applications are hygiene, followed by geotextile products and concrete fibre applications. Meraklon has a current turnover of about €60 million. The plant in Terni is Beaulieu Fibres International's third production facility; two further Beaulieu Fibres International production sites are located in Belgium.



*Caption: New building construction for future extension of production capacity in Terni.  
© 2017, Google Earth.*



*Caption: Light, soft and opaque hygiene fibres for baby diapers.*



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