

Fiberweb plc Profile

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Nonwovens Company Profiles

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Best regards,

Steve Chaikin Editor

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From the editors of

Nonwovens Markets

Sample profile from RISI's Nonwovens Company Profiles

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Overview

Last updated: Mar 26,2010 Fiberweb plc is one of the world's leading nonwovens producers, with 20 factories operating in 11

countries, including joint ventures. The company operates multiple nonwoven technologies serving hygiene and industrial markets. But it is primarily a spunmelted fabric supplier to the hygiene industry.

Fiberweb has two operating divisions, hygiene and industrial. The company had total revenues of BP 512.8 million in 2008, the latest full-year data. Its largest customer that year was The Procter & Gamble Co., which represented 27% of total sales.

In 2009, Fiberweb finalized a 50-50 joint venture with Brazil's Fitesa S.A., creating the second-largest spunbonding company in the Americas. That business, FitesaFiberweb, has its own profile.

HISTORY

Fiberweb was created by its former corporate parent, London-based BBA Group plc, by buying up and consolidating multiple nonwovens companies.

BBA Group, a diversified manufacturing company, introduced itself to the nonwovens industry in 1989 with the purchase of Reemay Inc. in Old Hickory, Tennessee, from the InterTech company. Fiberweb still owns the Reemay business.

Three-year-old Reemay was the world's largest specialty spunbonded manufacturer, producing polyester and polypropylene materials, and also needlepunched fabrics, for industrial markets.

InterTech started Reemay after buying from DuPont its 20-year-old U.S.-based Typar spunbonded polypropylene business, global Reemay spunbonded polyester business and the Tennessee factory.

In 1995, BBA bought Switzerland-based Holvis Holzstoff's nonwovens business, Fiberweb Group. The purchase included factories at: Norrkoping, Sweden; Trezzano Rosa, Italy; Biesheim, France; Cantonment, Florida; Washougal, Washington; and Simpsonville, South Carolina.

Fiberweb still operates all of these factories except for the Florida one. That business was sold to the Chicago private equity company Code Hennessy & Simmons LLC. The business became known as Cerex, and it was sold in 2000 to the now-defunct Western Nonwovens Inc., which Code Hennessy also owned at the time.

In 1996, BBA bought Germany's Corovin GmbH. Corovin operated a spunbonding factory in Peine, Germany, and partnered in five joint ventures: Linotec, an Aschersleben, Germany operation launched with machine builder Reifenhauser GmbH to develop and manufacture lightweight spunmelteds; Finotech Verbunstoffe GmbH, another Aschersleben, Germany venture, this time with Clopay Plastics Products Co., to develop nonwoven and film composites, and eventually printing capabilities, for hygiene products; CNC International Co. Ltd. in Rayon, Thailand, a spunmelting business; Saudi German Nonwoven Products Co., a spunmelting business in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia; Cordustex (Pty) Ltd., a spunbonding operation in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Fiberweb still operates the Peine facility, Linotec, which it now owns completely, and Cordustex, holding a 10% interest.

In 1997, Fiberweb completed four acquisitions. It purchased Italy's Korma SpA to produce feminine hygiene absorbent cores for The Procter & Gamble Co. It bought Bidim Ltda., a Brazilian polyester spunbonding company, from Rhodia-Ster SA. It purchased Gizeh Spuntec Vliesstoffwerk, a Berlin-based spunbonding joint venture of Corovin and Gizeh GmbH & Co. KG. Fiberweb also purchased a 15% share of AQF Technologies LLC, a gas filtration media manufacturer, from Hoechst.

Fiberweb still operates the Berlin facility.

In 1998, Fiberweb bought Veratec from International Paper. The acquisition brought facilities in: Athens, Georgia, a carding operation; Bethune, South Carolina, with carding and a spunlacing line; Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, a carding and wetlaid facility; Green Bay, Wisconsin, a resinbonding operation; Liege, Belgium, carding; Toronto, Canada, carding and spunmelting operations; Iturbide, Mexico,

spunmelting.

Fiberweb continues to run the Green Bay and Iturbide facilities.

In 2000, Fiberweb purchased Snow Filtration Co. LLC, one of the United States' largest converters and distributors of air and liquid filtration products. The company also purchased the rest of AQF from Hoechst. Snow's converting business was eventually sold.

In 2001, Fiberweb launched Advanced Design Concepts, a joint venture with Dow Chemical Co. Three years later, Advanced Design commercialized an elastic bicomponent spunbonded fabric that was said to be stronger than elastic meltblown and competitively priced with laminated materials of nonwoven and film or netting.

Also in 2001, Fiberweb started a greenfield airlaid factory in Tianjin, China. In 2008, the company started a second airlaid line there.

In 2002, Fiberweb shut the Lewisburg facility and sold the business to Ahlstrom Corp.

In early 2003, Fiberweb bought Grey Court, South Carolina-based Superior Nonwovens, a small polyester spunbonded producer. In September, Technofibra, a spunlacing and needlepunching company with operations in the neighboring towns of Carbonate and Mozzate, Italy, was purchased.

In the fall of 2004, Fiberweb bought Terno d'Isola, Italy-based Tenotex. The company had three factories, one at the headquarters location, with carded through-air and thermalbonding, and spunmelting lines; a second Italian plant at Ghiaie di Bonate, with similar technologies and a resinbonding line; and a factory in Alicante, Spain, with a carded thermalbonding line and a spunlacing line.

Fiberweb still runs the two Italian Tenotex factories.

In mid-2005, Fiberweb hired CEO Daniel Dayan and the company began a long series of restructurings and capacity changes. The Canadian factory was shut and its lines earmarked for delivery to the Berlin and Iturbide facilities. The company's headquarters was shifted from Brentwood, Tennessee to London. Fiberweb sold its stake in Finotech to its partner Clopay, raising \$82 million in cash.

Before the end of the year, BBA Group said it would sell or demerge the nonwovens business. While sales had been rising for years, operating profits had been falling: 2005, BP 619.3 million, BP 23.9 million; 2004, BP 552.8 million, BP 44.1 million; 2003, BP 527.5 million, BP 50.8 million; 2002, BP 505.2 million, BP 53.5 million.

In 2006, four more lines, two in Simpsonville and two in Washougal, were closed. The stake in the Thai business was sold to joint venture partner CPPC Public Co. Ltd. Blowitex, a small family-owned German roofing products company was purchased. In November, Fiberweb plc was launched as a standalone company and was listed on the London Stock Exchange.

In 2007, Fiberweb sold its spunlacing businesses - Bethune, South Carolina; Carbonate and Mozzate, Italy; Alicante, Spain - to Ahlstrom Corp. As part of the deal, Ahlstrom agreed to supply Fiberweb with fabric for industrial wipes.

That same year, Fiberweb sold its cotton bleaching business to Barnhardt Manufacturing Co., closed the Grey Court spunbonding facility and sold its interest in Advanced Design Concepts to partner Dow Chemical. It also started a new five-meter spunmelting line in Norrkoping.

In 2008, Fiberweb announced that Israel's Avgol Nonwoven Industries was seeking to buy the company. But Avgol failed to get financing and the deal died in April. During the following month, Fiberweb sold Bidim to Mexichem, a Mexican chemicals and plastic pipe manufacturer, and its stake in Saudi German Nonwoven Products Co. to shareholders Zamil Group Holding Co. and Al-Rajhi House Enterprises.

Also that year, Fiberweb started two more joint ventures. The company purchased a majority share in China's Tianjin Hengguan Nonwoven Co. Ltd. to produce polyester nonwovens. The company also joined with Indian investors to start a geotextiles business in India with Fiberweb's mothballed Terram line. Building construction was underway in Q1 2009. Further, a second airlaid line was started in Fiberweb's China factory.

In early 2009, with its European hygiene operations burdened with old machinery and a marketplace suffering under a weak economy,

Fiberweb said it would "deman" an S-Tex line at Biesheim, a spunmelting line at Peine and shut a 24-year-old spunbonding line at Norrkoping. The Swedish factory was already running a big new line and another new Reicofil 4 was set to start at Trezzano Rosa later in the year.

During the same period, Fiberweb also shut its Korma airlaid facility. The company had installed there a new Neumag M&J line. But after three years of work the machine still didn't work right, so the company gave up.

In Q2, the company purchased the remainder of Coronor Composites GmbH from its 50-50 joint venture partner, film manufacturer Nordenia International A.C. The two companies owned a nonwoven-film laminating line at the Peine facility which produced mostly medical drapes.

In the summer of 2009, Fiberweb and Brazil's Fitesa S/A finalized a 50-50 joint venture to create the second-largest merchant spunmelting company in the Americas. Fitesa CEO Silverio Baranzano was named CEO of the JV.

The business, named FitesaFiberweb, joined Fitesa's nonwovens assets with Fiberweb's Washougal and Iturbide factories and its Simpsonville facility, which would house at least one new Reifenhauser line. The new line was eventually described as a 5.4-meter-wide multibeam Reicofil 4, with bicomponent capability. The line is due to start in early 2011.

At the end of 2009, Fiberweb bought out its China partner in the polyester spunbonding joint venture and planned to move the line to its Tianjin airlaid facility. The company also announced that it and Japan's Chisso were evaluating creating a joint venture to manufacture bicomponent spunmelted in China to supply the Asian hygiene market.

In early 2010, Fiberweb sold the stopped AQF line at Simpsonville to Hollingsworth & Vose.

SALES

In 2008, Fiberweb reported a consolidated operating profit, before restructuring and other one-time charges, of BP 18.8 million, up 36% compared to the previous year's BP 13.8 million, on net sales of 512.8 million, up 8% over 2007's BP 473.6 million. Including charges, the company lost BP 15.4 million in 2008 compared to 2007's losses of BP 89.3 million.

By segment, the company reported hygiene operating profits of BP 13.6 million, up 35% compared to the previous year's BP 10.1 million, on sales of BP 318.5 million, up 17% over the previous year's BP 272.4 million.

In the industrial segment, operating profit was BP 10.5 million, down 3% from 2007, on sales of BP 194.3 million, down 3% from the previous year's BP 201.2 million.

In the first half of 2009, consolidated operating profit, before unusual charges, was BP 10.7 million, up 22% over the same period in 2007, BP 8.8 million, on sales of BP 242.5 million, down 7% over the previous year's BP 260.0 million. Including charges, the company lost BP 6.8 million compared to 2008's half-year profit of 6.2 million.

The hygiene division had an operating profit before charges of BP 8.7 million, up 36% compared to the year-ago period's BP 6.4 million, on sales of BP 147.9 million, down 6.9% compared to 2007's BP 158.8 million. Fiberweb said segment results were hurt by the closure of its Korma, Italy business, falling raw material prices, to which fabric prices are tied, and a 10% volume decrease, particularly in spunmelt-heavy Europe.

The industrial division had an operating profit before charges of BP 6.0 million, up 7% over 2007's BP 5.6 million, on sales of BP 94.6 million, down 7% compared to the previous year's BP 101.2 million. Weak construction markets in the United States and Europe hurt industrial sales overall.

As in years past, The Procter & Gamble Co. represents Fiberweb's single largest customer. In 2008, P&G provided 27% of total sales. In 2005, Procter represented about a third of the company's sales.

In 2006, in its initial public offering prospectus, Fiberweb said the following companies were also important customers: Kimberly-Clark Corp., SCA, Paul Hartmann, Huish, Huttig Building Products Inc., one of the largest U.S. distributors of housewrap and other building materials, and Unilever.

Huish Detergents Inc., which manufactured fabric softener sheets, and Unilever's North American laundry care business were merged in early 2008 to form Sun Products Corp.

PRODUCTS

Fiberweb is primarily a manufacturer of hygiene fabrics for the global baby diaper, adult diaper and feminine hygiene markets.

On the industrial side, the company focuses on housewrap, roofing materials, pool and spa filter media, and fabric softener sheet media.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Fiberweb continues to rapidly transform itself - closing plants, shutting lines, adding new capacities and launching joint ventures - as it seeks long-term margin improvements in its core businesses. After abandoning spunlacing, and rethinking its commitment to airlaid, Fiberweb is focusing on spunmelting. The FitesaFiberweb venture is designed to reinvigorate and expand the company's Americas prospects, where shrinkage has been the order of the day. A joint venture with Chisso would give the company a new and long sought horizon in China.

Personnel

Daniel Dayan CEO

Barnes President, Consumer Fabrics

John Juric President, Americas Industrial

Hans Jorg Oberberg President, Europe Industrial

Derek Chan President, Asia

Carsten Heldmann Chief Technology Officer

News

Nonwovens Price Watch - Volume 3, Number 3

was more upbeat, saying that demand was "good," helped by Fiberweb's capacity

April 1, 2010

It's a Wonderful life for an old Fiberweb spunmelt line; Making room in Simpsonville

Fiberweb's old medical fabrics line in the United States is getting ... in place in Fiberweb's Simpsonville, South Carolina facility, will be housed ... be installed there. In January, Fiberweb sold to Hollingsworth & Vose

March 18, 2010

Fiberweb introduces TYPAR Matrix 3-D

Fiberweb, Inc., manufacturer of TYPAR Geotextiles, introduces TYPAR Matrix 3-D Geotextiles(TM), a new patent pending generation of threedimensional ... Arthur Cashin, Director of Geotextiles Fiberweb Americas, "TYPAR Matrix

March 12, 2010

Nonwovens Markets - Volume 25, Number 5



It's a Wonderful life for an old Fiberweb spunmelt line; Making room in Simpsonville Fiberweb's old medical fabrics line in the United States ... in place in Fiberweb's Simpsonville, South Carolina facility, will be housed

March 11, 2010

Fiberweb sets new, costly \$400M loan facility

Fiberweb plc, the leading international nonwoven fabrics producer, is announcing a refinancing of its \$400 million loan facility, which was due to expire at the end of its original five-year term in October 2011. A new

February 25, 2010

Fiberweb's DEFENCELL goes to Haiti

-GeoCells of Fiberweb Americas, DEFENCELL Engineered Protection Systems ..., visit www.defencell.com. About Fiberweb Fiberweb Inc., is the wholly owned U.S. subsidiary of Fiberweb plc, a London, UK based company listed

January report on U.S. nonwoven patent activity

: Nov. 11, 2003. Assignee: Fiberweb Corovin GmbH (Germany). Inventor

January 31, 2010

Rockline wins 2010 Vision Award

); Chicopee's Disaster Relief Blanket (2006); Fiberweb's Resolution

January 28, 2010

Nonwovens Markets - Volume 25, Number 2 🙆



Fiberweb's AQF fi Iter-media line Filter media and specialty nonwovens manufacturer Hollingsworth & Vose purchased Fiberweb's carboncontaining composite fi ... of the sale were not released. The purchase of Fiberweb's AQF line will "increase

January 27, 2010

Fiberweb bought out China spunbond JV partner

Fiberweb Asia Pacific Limited announced that it has completed the acquisition of all the remaining shares in Fiberweb Hengguan (Tianjin) Speciality ... owned company. The new company is named Fiberweb (Tianjin) Speciality Nonwovens

December 24, 2009

Fiberweb and Chisso eye joint venture bicomponent spunmelting operation in China

Fiberweb plc and Japanese chemical and nonwovens manufacturer Chisso Corp ... manufacturing line and housing it at Fiberweb's Tianjin airlaid factory ... bicomponent spunmelting assets. But Fiberweb's bico capacities are far

December 23, 2009

Nonwovens Markets - Volume 24, Number 24 陷



includes the nonwovens segment. Dec. 22, 2009 | Vol. 24, No. 24 Fiberweb and Chisso eye joint venture bico spunmelting operation in China Fiberweb plc ... and housing it at Fiberweb's Tianjin airlaid factory, a source familiar

December 22, 2009

Chisso and Fiberweb to explore China SM JV

and the Consumer Fabrics Division of Fiberweb plc announced a collaboration program ... Corporation and Fiberweb plc consider the personal hygiene market in China Commenting on the proposed collaboration with Chisso, Fiberweb CEO Daniel Dayan

December 15, 2009

F'web ops profit ahead of 2008, sales slightly up

Fiberweb plc, the international nonwoven fabrics producer, is publishing a pre-close trading update, ahead of preliminary results for the twelve month period ending 31 December 2009, which are expected to be announced

December 15, 2009

Filtration 2009: 109 exhibitors, 1,400 visitors

Santos, Batson Group; David Stockbower, Fiberweb; R. Vijayakumar, Aerfil

December 10, 2009

Capacity

Last Undated: 02/26/10

Last Updated: 02/26/10								
MANUFACTURING LOCATION	EQUIPMENT/ TECHNOLOGY	FIBERS/ RESINS	FABRIC PROPERTIES	CAPACITY (TONNES)	BRANDS	MARKETS		
CHINA								
Fiberweb (China) Airlaid Co. Ltd. 49 The Seventh Ave., TEDA Tianjin 300457 China +86 22-5988-9300 +86 22-2532-9338	1 M&J airlaid line (agitator head), multibond (Started 2001) New embosser, calendar (2007)	Pulp, PET, rayon, SAP	2.7 m wide, 100 gsm	16000		Hygiene		
	1 Shanghai Expansion Industries (EPS) airlaid line, drum forming head (Started 2008)	Pulp, PET, rayon, SAP	2.1 m wide, mostly less than 100 gsm	10000		Hygiene		
	1 Lurgi-type Chinese-made single-beam spunbond line (Formerly Hengguan Nonwoven Co. JV)	PET	2.7 m wide	2500		Filtration, auto, construction		
FRANCE								
	1 Lurgi Docan spunbond line	PP	2.5 m wide, 17- 90 gsm	3200		Hygiene, other		

Fiberweb France Zone Industrielle Est	1 Meltblown line, pre- existing (To start 2010)	PP			Face mask, respirator, HVAC
Biesheim 68600 France +33 389-72-4700	2 Proprietary S-Tex triple- beam spunbond lines (Started in 1996 and 2000)	PP	3.0 m wide, 15 gsm	18000	Hygiene
+33 389-72-8982	1 Meltblown line (Started 1991)	PP			Filtration
GERMANY					
Fiberweb Linotec Development GmbH Daimlerstrasse 3 Aschersleben	1 Reicofil 2 double-beam spunbond line	PP, PE	2.4 m wide, 8- 100 gsm		Hygiene, other
06449 Germany +49 3473-889-111 +49 3473-889-199	1 Laminating line				
Fiberweb Corovin GmbH Woltorferstrasse 124	1 Reicofil 3 SMMS spunmelt line	PP	3.0 m wide, 10- 150 gsm	8000	Hygiene
Peine 31201	1 Reicofil 3 SMMS spunmelt line	PP	4.2 m wide, 10- 150 gsm	12000	Hygiene
Germany +49 5171-408-500 +49 5171-408-999	1 Lamination line	Nonwoven, film			Medical drapes
ITALY					
	2 Proprietary SMS spunmelt lines (One started 1996)	PP	4.8 m wide, 12- 70 gsm	12000	Hygiene, other
Fiberweb Italia SpA Via Bologna 7 Trezzano Rosa	1 Modified STP Impianti SMS spunmelt line	PP	3.0 m wide, 12- 70 gsm	7000	
20060 Italy +39 02-909-991 +39 02-909-994-00	1 Reicofil 3 SSMMS spunmelt line (Started 2000)	PP	4.2 m wide, 15- 100 gsm	15000	Hygiene
	1 Reicofil 4 spunmelt line, with bicomponent capability (Started 2009)	PP	5.2 m wide	15000	Hygiene, other
	2 Through-air bond lines, with additional thermalbond capability	PP, PET, bicomponent	2.0 m wide	5000	Hygiene, filtration
Tenotex SpA Via Padre Albisetti 10 Terno d'Isola	2 Thermalbond lines	PP, PET, bicomponent	2.0 m wide	5000	Hygiene
Bergamo 24030 Italy +39 035-4993-111 +39 035-904-617	1 Triple-beam spunbond line	PP	4.2 m wide	10000	
	1 Double-beam meltblown line	PP	1.9 m wide		Filtration
	1 Ultrasonic bond line		1.6 m wide		
Tenotex SpA Via Dell Industria 6 Ghiaie di Bonate Bergamo 24040 Italy +39 035-4993-111 +39 035-904-617	1 Through-air bond line, with additional thermalbond capability	PP, PET, Bico	3.0 m wide	4000	Hygiene
	1 Resinbond line (Started 2005)	PET, rayon	3.2 m wide	3000	Hygiene, acquisition- distribution layer
SWEDEN					

Fiberweb Sweden AB Bravikenvagen 18	1 Reicofil 4 SSMMS (Started 2007)	PP	5.2 m wide	19000		Hygiene, medical
Norrkoping 60119 Sweden +46 11-2444-00 +46 11-2444-62	1 Reicofil 3 double-beam spunbond line (Started 2000)	5.4 m wide	PP	14000		Hygiene
UK						
Terram Ltd. Mamhilad Pontypool Gwent NP4 0YR UK +44 1495-767-444 +44 1495-762-393	1 Proprietary spunbond line, with bicomponent capability	PP, PE	5.0 m wide, 65- 1000 gsm	5000	Terram, Defencell	Geotextiles
USA						
	2 DuPont technology spunbond lines	PET, co-PET	3.8 m wide	35000	Reemay	Fabric softener sheet, filtration
Fiberweb Inc. 70 Old Hickory Blvd. Old Hickory Tennessee	1 Proprietary spunbond line (Started 1999)	PET, co-PET	2.5 m wide	11000		Industrial
37138 USA 615-847-7000 615-847-7068	2 DuPont technology spunbond lines	PP	5.0 m wide	30000	Typar, Defencell	Housewrap, landscape, industrial
0.00.1.1000	PET recycling plant (Started 2007)					
Fiberweb Simpsonville Inc. (Green Bay) 3120 Commodity Lane Green Bay Wisconsin 54304 USA 920-336-0222 920-336-3418	1 Carded resinbond line	PP, rayon	3.8 m wide, 18- 65 gsm	5000		Hygiene, filtration
GERMANY						
Fiberweb Berlin GmbH Sperenberger Strasse 9 Berlin	3 Reicofil 1 spunbond lines	PP, PE	3.2 m wide, 17- 70 gsm	4000		Industrial
12277 Germany +49 30-723-943-15 +49 30-723-943-99	1 Reicofil 1 double-beam spunbond line (Started 1990)	PP	3.2 m wide, 17- 70 gsm	4000		Industrial
SOUTH AFRICA						
Cordustex (Proprietary) Ltd. Humewood Port Elizabeth 6013 South Africa +27 41-581-5855 +27 41-581-5848	1 Reifenhauser spunbond line (Started 1987)	PP		2000		Hygiene, other
INDIA						
Terram Geosynthetics						

Private Ltd. A 704 Safal Pegasus, Anandnagar Road Ahmedabab Gujarat 380 015 India +91 794-0064-529 +91 794-0064-528	1 Proprietary spunbond line, with bicomponent capability (Started mid-1970s, moved to India 2009)	PP, PE	5.0 m wide, 65- 1000 gsm	5000		Geotextiles	
USA							
Fiberweb Simpsonville Inc. (Simpsonville) 840 South East Main St. Simpsonville South Carolina 29681 USA 864-967-5600 864-967-5674	1 High-speed carded thermalbond line (Started 2001)	PP, PET, rayon	4.0 m wide, 15- 100 gsm	8000	Excell	Hygiene	

Key Competitors

Key Brands

- Coronop II
- Linotec
- Securon
- Reemay
- S-Tex
- Softex
- Terram
- Excell
- Blowitex
- Celestra
- Typar
- Sofspan
- Defencell



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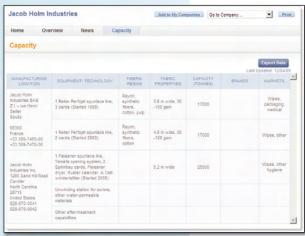


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- Analyze potential customers of raw materials
- Monitor your competition

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COMPANIES PROFILED

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Avgol Nonwoven Industries

British Vita

Buckeye Technology Inc.

Concert Industries Corp.

Dounor SA

Du Pont De Nemours & Co.

Duni AB

Fibertex A/S

Fiberweb plc

First Quality Nonwovens, Inc.

FitesaFiberweb

Foss Manufacturing Co. LLC

Freudenberg & Co.

Georgia Pacific Corp.

Guangdong Jofo Enterprises Co. Ltd.

Hollingsworth & Vose Co.

Jacob Holm Industries

Japan Vilene Co. Ltd.

Johns Manville Corp.

Kimberly-Clark Corp.

Kuraray Co. Ltd.

Low & Bonar plc

Lydall Inc.

Mitsui Chemicals Inc.

Nan Liu Enterprise Co. Ltd.

Pegas Nonwovens S.A.

Polymer Group Inc.

Providencia Industria e Comercio

Propex Holding LLC

Royal Ten Cate

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Toray Industries Inc.

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