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Süddekor Purchases Second Treating Plant in the South Giving it Clear Advantage over Competition

Laichingen, Germany/AGAWAM, USA – 2D-Group (Süddekor/Dakor) announces the purchase of a second treating plant in the USA (Biscoe, North Carolina), reinforcing its position as the only single source supplier for finished, treated papers in North America. Having a treating plant in the southern United States will ultimately save money and provide efficiency for Süddekor customers by eliminating the cost of transportation, working capital, additional scheduling, and clear quality responsibilities, decreasing lead times and increasing flexibility.

The purchase illustrates Süddekor's strong commitment to the future of its customers. Traditionally acknowledged to be the design authority in the surface laminate industry, Süddekor now boasts even more state-of-the-art treating equipment and technology.

The Biscoe plant's five-foot treating line allows for greater efficiency and flexibility when added to the current two seven-foot treating lines in East Longmeadow. The plant also offers Süddekor customers the white-pigmented paper treatment process for the first time.

“The industry is ever evolving and needs a tier-one integrated supplier who offers a full package of services,” says Süddekor's President and CEO, Andreas Gottzmann. “This purchase enhances our services and creates an amazing synergy between the two plants.

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The employees in Biscoe and East Longmeadow will be working side by side, interchanging technology and production capabilities to best suit our customers' needs."

Other customer benefits to Süddekor's *Multi-Dimensional Control* include:

- Increased production capacity
- A wider range of products
- Increased efficiency
- Decreased shipping costs and delivery deadlines
- Increased security with no third party involved

Süddekor LLC, Agawam, bought the shares of the Biscoe Paper LLC, a joint venture of ATC-Tarkett. The purchase, which officially closed January 15, 2008, includes 200 acres of property and the 71,990-square-foot treating facility. Currently there are just under 20 employees working in Biscoe, a town of about 2,000 people.

The initial reaction from the Biscoe employees has been extremely positive. "We were very fortunate that the purchase of the treating plant in Biscoe came with such a good base of employees, creating stability right from the start," says Gottzmann. "Süddekor has a strong commitment to the Biscoe employees and the community. We have said from the start that the Biscoe plant creates another platform for expansion and we do plan to expand operations there over the next year, creating more jobs in Biscoe."

The current goal is to have the Biscoe plant at full capacity by the second quarter of 2008. Expansion plans include opening more lines at the plant and hiring additional employees, therefore increasing production capabilities to create a perfect technological match

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between Biscoe and East Longmeadow, ultimately leading to increased efficiency for the customers.

The synergies from integration, the reduced complexity of the supply chain, including the clear responsibility for quality, working capital and freight costs, and additional handling, will ultimately increase the overall savings for Süddekör customers.

Süddekör LLC in Agawam, Mass., is a subsidiary of 2D-Group (Süddekör/Dakor), one of the world's leading décor printers and impregnators, headquartered in Laichingen, Germany. Süddekör LLC supplies printed decorative paper to the North American laminate industry and is the only company to offer North American laminate manufacturers a complete design service from scanning and separations, cylinder engraving, proofing and printing through to treated products, tailored to our customers' needs. Süddekör, with its plants in Agawam and East Longmeadow, Mass., and Biscoe, N.C., is the only single source supplier for finished, treated papers for the North American market.

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