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**EMBARGO – 15.05.2007 – 07h00**

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**RECTICEL expands Flexible Foam operations to Finland**

RECTICEL has signed an agreement to acquire the polyurethane foam and wadding products business from Finlayson & Co of Finland. The acquired companies, Espe Oy and Ewona Oy, have achieved combined annual sales of EUR 24,9 million in 2006 and employ about 151 employees in Finland and Estonia.

Espe Oy operates a foaming and converting unit in Kouvola (Finland) mainly for the upholstery-furniture and mattress industry. Espe Esti Oü, Espe Oy's Estonian subsidiary operates a foam converting unit in Tallinn.

Ewona Oy manufactures wadding products (thermally bonded fibre products for the bedding, furniture and construction industry) in Kankaanpää (Finland).

The transaction is still subject to the approval of the Estonian antitrust authorities.

This acquisition enables RECTICEL to enlarge its operations to Finland while strengthening its market position in Northern Europe.

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**Recticel in a nutshell**

Recticel is a Belgian Group with a strong European dimension, but also operates in the rest of the world. Recticel has some one hundred establishments in 26 countries.

Recticel contributes to daily comfort with foam filling for seats, mattresses and slat bases of top brands, insulation material, interior comfort for cars and an extensive range of other industrial and domestic applications.

Recticel is the Group behind well-known bedding brands, including Beka, Epeda, Lattoflex, Literie Bultex, Schlaraffia, Sembella, Swissflex, Superba and Ubica.

Recticel is driven by technological progress and innovation, which has led to a revolutionary breakthrough at the biggest names in the car industry.

Recticel achieved sales to a value of nearly 1,5 billion euros in 2006.