

21 April 2006

TEXON INTERNATIONAL FORMALISES ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY TO

In line with its commitment to conducting business with the highest level of integrity and in an environmentally ethical manner, Texon International is unveiling its environmental strategy. With a strong heritage in developing sustainable solutions and the recognised leaders in eco-friendly technology, Texon International has formalised its environmental strategy to ensure the long term viability of the business for its customers.

Having already invested considerable resources into the research and feasibility of using reusable waste cellulose and polyester fibre in its products, the company now has product lines that contain up to 100 per cent recycled fibre. Its ongoing programme of environmental activity is leading the way and aims to achieve the following goals:

- To offer environmentally friendly and sustainable products across all market segments
- To minimise the impact of manufacturing technologies and commercial operations on the environment while offering a mutual benefit to customers and suppliers
- To work in partnership with suppliers and customers to look at innovative technologies in using post consumer waste streams
- To reuse post production waste in all of its manufacturing units
- To offer recycling programmes to key customers and suppliers

Stephen Bracegirdle, CEO, says: "Footwear brands are under increasing pressure to demonstrate their environmental and ethical credentials. With a clear-cut environmental policy, Texon International has been working with such brands and manufacturers to advise and create environmental and sustainable footwear solutions, using our greener structural components as a way of managing our impact on the environment."

Texon International is already achieving many of these goals. For many years it has been developing the reuse of internal waste streams and post conversion waste streams. For instance, a waste gratification unit installed at its Skelton manufacturing plant is converting waste into energy for the plant. The company is also focused on generating raw materials from recycled and sustainable sources with a vision to incorporate post consumer waste into many of its product solutions. Lean manufacturing practices are already in place in all Texon International manufacturing facilities to drive continuous improvement and cost management to deliver quality, service, innovation and value to its customers.

Other initiatives include:

1. Developing relationships with key customers in identifying mutual benefits in sustainability:
 - o Environmental impact
 - o Product life cycle levies (End of life disposal)
 - o Consumer brand image
 - o Brand cultures
2. Developing relationships with suppliers in identifying mutual benefits in sustainability:
 - o The use of fibres from post consumer waste

- o Improved fillers and coated fillers
 - o Recycled PP and internal waste streams
 - o Vision to introduce more sustainable staple fibre and polymers
3. Developing internal waste stream management processes and capabilities:
- o Waste segregation
 - o Waste gasification unit
 - o The use of renewable energy sources for the reduction of CO₂ in production

Texon International has also adopted a policy of 'source reduction' to control and eliminate the use of chemicals within its products and production processes. This is achieved through continuous evaluation of each manufacturing operation. Some of the resulting environmental adaptations include improving product formulations, recovery and the re-use of latex and a comprehensive recycling programme.

Editor's notes:

Texon International is the market leader in delivering high quality, high performance structural component solutions for the global footwear industry, apparel and accessories market and for specialised products in the automotive, hygiene, medical, construction, agrotextile and geotextile sectors. The company is the largest organisation of its kind and the only one to manufacture cellulose, non-woven and metallic solutions for the footwear industry, with production facilities on three continents and selling to more than 90 countries.

Texon International actively promotes the protection of the environment through innovation and conscientious process management as an integral part of its global recycling and sustainability business strategy. It is a leader in eco-friendly technology through conservation, adapting manufacturing processes and recyclability of its products. It uses raw materials that are sustainable and derive from a recycled source, converts and recycles internal waste streams and recycles waste streams upstream in the supply chain.

Texon International is owned by MatlinPatterson, a global investment firm that holds investments in over 25 companies worldwide.