

Press release

As part of its geographic expansion

Deceuninck opens a new subsidiary in Croatia

Hooglede-Gits, 17 June 2005. – Group Deceuninck, a worldwide leading manufacturer of PVC window systems and profiles for the construction industry, announces that its Thyssen Polymer division in Zagreb (Croatia) has taken new offices with storage space.

In addition to Turkey and Russia, the countries that made up the former Yugoslavia have become an important growth market for PVC window frame systems. Their political stability and the progress of their accession to the European Union have given a great boost to tourism, which has helped the investment climate on the Croatian coast. Moreover, a great number of government measures have ensured the rapid rebuilding of the country in recent years. The takeover of Thyssen Polymer had already given Deceuninck a strong foothold in the region.

The Thyssen Polymer division has been operational in Croatia and neighbouring countries for around seven years. "The strong increase in the demand for PVC building products led us to start looking for a local office that would provide a favourable environment for further growth and expansion. The majority of our clients operate within a 200-km radius of the capital, Zagreb, hence our choice of this location," states Clement De Meersman, CEO of Deceuninck. The new subsidiary is located in Dugo Selo, on a centrally located and easily accessible industrial zone, just 20 kilometres from Zagreb. Zagreb is itself an ideal location for supplying clients in the neighbouring country Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The site has a storage capacity of 1500 m², including 900 m² of covered warehouse space. It also has around 200 m² of office space as well as a showroom and a training area for new manufacturers. During the start-up phase, the new subsidiary will provide work for six permanent staff.

Part of Deceuninck's strategy is to progress as rapidly as possible from its current strong position to a leading position in this strategically important growth region.

Deceuninck is an integrated group of world format, specialised in compounding, tool fabrication, design, development, extrusion, finishing, gaskets, recycling and injection moulding of PVC-U systems and profiles for the building industry. The company is active in more than 60 countries, has 31 subsidiaries (production and/or sales) and is supported by 3043 personnel, 670 of them in Belgium. In 2004 the Deceuninck Group achieved consolidated sales of 582.1 million euros.

(End of press release)

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