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Radici Group and HeiQ Materials launch antimicrobial fiber using HeiQ silver additive

Bad Zurzach, Switzerland, Oct 26, 2007 - HeiQ Materials AG, the inventor of silver microcomposite additives, today announces a worldwide partnership agreement with the Radici Group, one of the world's leading high-quality man-made fiber manufacturers. The scope of the partnership is to develop fibers featuring HeiQ's unique antimicrobial silver microcomposite technology.

Nanofeel, the new antimicrobial polyester fiber from Radici, is the World's first man-made fiber featuring HeiQ's groundbreaking microcomposite technology. Nanofeel has permanent antimicrobial properties thanks to the incorporation of HeiQ microcomposite silver in the PET matrix before spinning. The functionalized fiber maintains the handle, strength and elongation properties of the fiber. The silver microcomposite prevents the development of unpleasant odours and dramatically reduces the proliferation of bacteria.

"Working with the Radici Group is a great recognition of HeiQ and its HeiQ silver product. Our close collaboration has resulted in a very unique antimicrobial fiber product which meets the needs of modern users of garments and outperforms the competition in durability", says Carlo Centonze, CEO of HeiQ Materials AG.

The customer benefit of using Nanofeel over other fibers is the improved comfort, freshness and hygiene that is enabled by adding the HeiQ silver product. Nanofeel dramatically reduces the growth of bacteria and fungi and thereby prevents unpleasant odours. All the while it is a clean technology containing no harmful biocides.

"The partnership with HeiQ has allowed us to take our new product Nanofeel to the market quickly and we are confident this will be a sought after product with strategic importance to both our company as well as our customers," says Mr Parenzan, Head of R&D Polyester of Radici Group Radyarn.

For more information please contact:

HeiQ Materials AG

Kristofer Skantze, Head of Sales and Marketing

Phone +41(0) 56 250 68 50

info@heiq.com

Radici Group Radyarn

Mr. Andrea Borgis – Head of Marketing Radyarn

Info.radyarn@radicigroup.com

RadiciGroup, a multinational company operating in 15 countries around the globe, is one of the world's leading manufacturers specializing in chemicals, plastics, looms and the synthetic fibres production chain.

One of the Group's key strengths is the synergistic vertical integration of its polyamide chain. RadiciGroup has total control over its production chain, from chemical intermediates, such as adipic acid and polyamide 6 and 6,6, to engineering plastics and synthetic yarn. This ensures consistent production quality and offers customers additional advantages, such as the custom manufacture of products with special features based on specific application needs.

RadiciGroup has 45 production and sales units and about 7,400 employees worldwide; its consolidated revenue for financial year 2006 was €1.435 million.

www.radicigroup.com

About HeiQ Materials: HeiQ Materials AG is a Swiss producer of high-performance microcomposite additives and masterbatches. HeiQ provides the entire production chain from a single source, with activities ranging from research and product development to large-scale industrial manufacturing. Useful applications for HeiQ's high performance additives can be found in the textile, plastics, coatings, cosmetic and medical sectors.

www.heiq.com