

## Press Release

### **Mitsubishi HiTec Paper Bielefeld decides on investments and gives a boost to its R&D – restructuring is on course and on schedule**

*Bielefeld, April 2, 2009 - The Bielefeld-based specialist paper manufacturer Mitsubishi HiTec Paper is investing in energy-saving measures and is boosting production efficiency. At the same time, restructuring of the company is progressing on schedule, and extra resources are being allocated to research and development (R&D) activities.*

An entire range of investments is going in to optimize energy consumption for cold generation, to further reduce water consumption and fibre loss and to convert the winder to further reduce scrap, and to improve production efficiency levels at the Bielefeld site. These investments total an amount of approx. € 1.6 million. In addition, Mitsubishi HiTec Paper is carrying out a feasibility study into ways of improving the processing of scrap associated with the production of high-quality products. The planned level of investment will ultimately amount to approx. € 6 million.

Investments at this site underscore the value and recognition which the parent company Mitsubishi Paper Mills Ltd., Japan (MPM) bestows on its German subsidiary in Bielefeld and Flensburg. At the same time, MPM is building up its R&D footprint in its German plants and is sending Takahisa Kato, one of its leading experts, to Germany as the new head of R&D. His task is to coordinate and 'bundle' the research activities of the two companies, and to maximize the benefits provided by synergy. In addition, a printing testing machine will be going into operation to further improve the wet-offset printability of the *thermoscript* range of thermal papers.

Parallel to this, the cost reduction and restructuring program at Mitsubishi HiTec Paper in Bielefeld is running absolutely on course and on schedule. As part of this process, the socially compatible downsizing of the workforce will now only affect 121 jobs, much less of an impact that originally indicated.

With this package of measures, Mitsubishi is ensuring that its full range of thermal, inkjet and carbonless papers can continue to be brought to market in their accustomed high quality standard, and that the company can also continue developing innovative products for existing as well as new applications.

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