

The closure of AG Cilander marks the end of a chapter in Swiss textile history

Herisau, 22nd February 2024

For several years, the textile company based in Herisau has been struggling with constantly increasing costs. In recent months, a sharp drop in demand for textile products both in Switzerland and abroad has worsened the situation. Production at AG Cilander will cease at the end of July this year.

Herisau, 22nd February 2024 – In January 2024, the company announced its intention to discontinue the business activities of AG Cilander due to changes in the textile industry and the order situation with key customers. Despite efforts to find a solution for the continuation of the entire company, the consultation process according to Swiss law has concluded without success. Therefore, the company will be closed by the end of August 2024 at the latest.

End of textile production at AG Cilander

At today's Extraordinary General Assembly, the shareholders of AG Cilander decided to cease operations this year. The decision was preceded by a consultation process involving the company's management and the Personnel Commission. Approaches for the continuation of individual areas have been examined and the framework conditions for employee support were defined. "Unfortunately, it is not possible to continue the business as a whole. We regret this very much. At the moment we are focusing our efforts on continuing parts of the business under new ownership. This would enable us to save up to 30 jobs", says Rolf Schmid, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Follow-up solutions for employees

CEO Burghard Schneider sees good opportunities for employees to find a new solution quickly: "The vacancies offered by neighbouring companies are impressive and very gratifying. The social plan is designed to support and guide employees in their search for a follow-up solution. The dedicated job centre, an internal task force, is already in close contact with many HR departments from other companies and is actively promoting job placements".

Further measures are being planned with the various regional employment centres and an employment agency. It is also pleasing to see that a follow-up solution has been found for all the apprentices so that they can complete their education. The CEO adds: "We have great people. We are happy for any new employer to be able to build their future with Cilander's dedicated employees".

For questions please contact

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About Cilander Group

Since 1814, Cilander has been finishing a wide variety of fabrics (clothing fabric and technical textiles), giving them additional functions. With over 16 million running meters of high-quality finished textile products every year, the Cilander Group, based in Herisau/Switzerland, is one of Europe's leading suppliers of highly functional textiles and finishing processes. The versatile Swiss quality products are exported to over 80 countries. The company operates three production plants in Switzerland: one at its headquarters in Herisau/AR, as well as one each in Flawil/SG and in Lützelflüh/BE. The majority shareholder is Steinegg AG, which belongs to Stiftung Steinegg.