



BEYOND
SURFACE TECHNOLOGIES



Press Release

Deadline: Thursday 4th November 2010, 6.00pm

HeiQ Materials AG and Beyond Surface Technologies AG view Swiss Technology Award 2010 as incentive for further innovations

- Co-development of Oilguard important reason for winning 2010 award
- New partnership for Oilguard with South Korean company Saehen Hitech Ltd.

Basel, 4. November 2010 – The Swiss Innovation Forum today awarded HeiQ Materials AG the Swiss Technology Award in the category Maturity Stage. The Forum gave as reason for its choice of company the development of Oilguard, the non woven fabric which protects coastal areas and beaches from oil spills.

Oilguard is a product which was co-developed in record time by HeiQ Materials AG, Beyond Surface Technologies AG (both Swiss) and TWE (Germany), when the Deep-water Horizon catastrophe occurred in the Gulf of Mexico in April.

The Swiss Technology Award has been honouring the best and most innovative companies in Switzerland for already more than twenty years and is awarded in three categories: Seed, Start-up and Maturity Stage. This year's three winners beat 85 competitors.

The Swiss Technology Forum gave as reason for its choice of winner that the oil absorbent and water repellent fabric was developed for coastal and beach protection in record time and that it is today the only available technology for preventing oil contamination of coastal areas and beaches.

“We are, of course, very proud that our company has won such a great award with our co-developed product, Oilguard. This is really motivating for us to continue investing in innovations,” explained Carlo Centonze, CEO of HeiQ. The company has its headquarters in the Solvay industrial park in Bad Zurzach and was established in 2005 as an ETH spin off. Investor from the start was the Zürcher Kantonalbank.

“The award proves that when expertise is pooled it can lead to exceptional results. I am particularly pleased that our product, with its clear environmental protection and sustainability focus, has won such an award,” said Matthias Föbel, CEO of Beyond Surface Technologies AG in Pratteln.

Oilguard is, meanwhile, well known throughout the world. This week TWE also gained a new partner in Korea – Saehen Hitech Ltd. Here the product will be used to make an important contribution to beach and coastal protection with an average of 180 oil spills per year in South Korea alone.

Further information on the Swiss Technology Award 2010 on: www.swiss-innovation.com/media, www.swiss-innovation.com/fotos, www.swiss-innovation.com/video and www.swisstechnology-award.ch.

Further information on *Oilskill* and the *Oilguard Alliance* on: www.oilguard.org .

If you have any further questions about this press release please contact us:

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About HeiQ:

HeiQ Materials AG is a Swiss high-tech company researching, developing and manufacturing sustainable textile effects for the most demanding customer areas. Focusing on textile and medical markets, the company seeks to build nature-inspired innovation into products, making them naturally performing. HeiQ's products are characterized by high efficiency coupled with long-lasting performance, yet with a minimum impact on the environment. HeiQ is a fast-growing internationally active company, with a palette of award winning state-of-the-art textile effects technologies like Pure by HeiQ® and Barrier by HeiQ®.

www.heiqmaterials.com , www.heiq.com

About TWE:

The TWE GROUP is one of the world's leading producer of nonwovens. Developing and making its mark in this field for decades, TWE is able to offer customers new products and ideas based on a large set of different technologies. Being an international group of companies, each manufacturing site concentrates on specific technologies offering centers of excellence. Since TWE only uses quality raw materials and state of the art production processes leading global companies have long decided to rely on “Made by the TWE” quality label. www.twe.de

About Beyond Surface Technologies:

Beyond Surface Technologies AG (BST) is a globally working company with headquarters in Switzerland. BST is researching, developing and manufacturing high-quality effects based on sustainable technologies for textile surfaces. Therefore the company has created a global network of partner companies, technology providers and textile experts that offers a unique research and development know-how for sustainable textile special effects.

<http://www.beyondst.com>