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Press Release

Plasma Treatment

## SOFTAL PROVIDES THE WORLD BIGGEST MACHINE FOR PLASMA TREATMENT

Early this year, Softal delivered the largest Corona Station ever. The dimensions of approx. 8m length, 4m width, 6m height and a weight of approx. 20,000 kg make this the largest atmospheric pressure plasma treatment machine in the world. Besides cutting-edge electrode technology, this machine is equipped with several drive units with web guiding sensors, as well as tailor-made control technology for all relevant production parameters. The installed plasma output comes up to a total of 100 kW, which is distributed onto approx. 100 specially designed electrodes. The production line will be put into operation in March.

The machine is currently being installed as first process stage of a production line at Richter F&A Company, based in Stadtallendorf. It is designed for surface activation of combed top wool, making Softal the company to provide the largest single machine for atmospheric pressure plasma treatment of the outer and inner surface of fiber strands worldwide. The applied technology is brand new and tailor-made for the thermally highly sensitive fibers. The new wool treatment technology replaces the up to now common wet-chemical process step which includes a plasma discharge in the air.

The motivation to develop plasma-based surface activation of wool fibers stems from the need to replace the wet-chemical treatment which requires a hypochlorite solution with a more economical and eco-friendly method. The groundbreaking work for this new process was carried out as part of a research project sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and by the European Union. Several companies and research institutes contributed to the success.

For more than 45 years, Softal plasma systems have been setting global standards for surface activation of papers, plastics and metals. The curing and bonding qualities of paints, lacquers, coatings and adhesives are effectively enhanced through plasma treatment. In our technical lab

For further information contact [presse@softal.de](mailto:presse@softal.de)  
SOFTAL electronic Erik Blumenfeld GmbH & Co. KG · König-Georg-Stieg 1 · D-21107 Hamburg · Germany



in Hamburg, a team of physicists, analytical chemists and process engineering experts is dedicated to continuously improve existing processes and to create new, efficient solutions. This is why Softal could do more than merely gain a foothold in fiber treatment. The trade name SORTEX has become known for production facilities especially designed to meet the plasma treatment requirements of technical and natural fibers. In addition, the trade name ALDYNE has been established on the market for special equipment used for the highly selective functionalisation of plasma in air-free atmospheres. Contact: [sales@softal.de](mailto:sales@softal.de).