
NEWSMAKERS

Mulhollem elected ADM president

Paul B. Mulhollem has been elected president of Archer Daniels Midland Company, effective immediately. He will succeed John D. McNamara who has resigned.

Mulhollem has been with ADM since 1992 and has since served in a number of management responsibilities, including managing director of European operations and group vice president of worldwide oilseed processing. Most recently, he was senior vice president responsible for ADM's global oilseed, cocoa and grain merchandising activities.

Union promotes two execs

Union Confectionery Machinery Company, a division of National Equipment Corporation, has announced the promotion of two executives.

James Greenberg has been promoted to vice president of sales and is responsible for the firm's worldwide activities in the confectionery, biscuit and snack food industries. He joined the family-owned firm in 1986 and represented the fourth generation of ownership.

John Greenberg has been promoted to vice president and general manager and is responsible for the company's domestic operations and technical sales support. He joined the family business in 1989 and also represents the fourth generation of ownership.

Union is currently in its 90th year of service to the industry.

Sympak Group opens a branch office in the USA

Sympak Group, a manufacturer of processing and packaging machines for the food and beverage industry, has opened a branch office in the United States. Sympak had already established its presence in North America through offices belonging to its member companies; the task of the newly created Sympak North America is to strengthen its business activity in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, and to leverage all the synergies among the member companies.

The creation of the North American branch office is part of a strategy that calls for a worldwide expansion of the Sympak Group. Part of this strategy was also the creation of a

branch office in Brazil to serve Latin American countries.

Sympak North America is based in Columbus, Ohio, and shares its premises with the Stephan U.S. subsidiary (Stephan is a German company which became part of Sympak Group in 1999).

Initially, the activity of Sympak North America will be focused mainly on the products of three Sympak companies: OPM and its subsidiaries Jointech and Samas. OPM is a manufacturer of process plants for the confectionery industry and robotic plants for food packaging. Jointech specializes in building electronic flowpack machines. Samas makes palletizing plants.

Sobel acquires SKW Gelatin & Specialties

Sobel in the Netherlands has recently signed an agreement to acquire SKW Gelatin & Specialties from Degussa. The purchase price amounts to US\$265 million.

SKW Gelatin & Specialties, headquartered in Paris, France, has a staff of approximately 1,500 people. It operates in three markets: pharmaceutical, photographic and food.

Sobel is the parent company of the Banner Pharmacaps and Sidmak divisions, for healthcare products, and Rendac, Harimex and GSB divisions, which handle the natural organic products segment.

After the acquisition Sobel will have a staff of more than 4,700 people and expects to achieve a turnover of US\$950 million.

CSM acquires bakery supplies operation in Italy

CSM has acquired a large supplier to in-store bakeries in Italy. The new acquisition, Besser s.r.l., is a trading company which distributes bakery ingredients and products to leading Italian supermarkets.

CSM will pay for the acquisition in cash.

Besser realizes an annual turnover of around €8 million. In Italy in-store bakeries in large supermarkets are a small but fast-growing market segment. The acquisition of Besser is also strategically important to CSM

as it opens up another sales channel for CSM products.

CSM specializes in ingredients and convenience products for the bakery sector. In Italy CSM Bakery Supplies Europe is operational with Bake Mark Italia (Crema) and Braims Italia (La Spezia). CSM's current bakery supplies operations in Italy generate a total turnover of €105 million.

Founded in 1990 as a wholesaler serving in-store bakeries, Besser is headquartered in Milan, Italy.