

Suzhou (China), 21 April 2023

RadiciGroup announces the opening of its new factory in China

A 36,000m² LEED Gold-certified facility, designed for environmental and social sustainability. The Group steps up its operations in Asia, to serve a local high performance polymer market in constant expansion

The new RadiciGroup industrial site in Suzhou, China has been officially opened. Designed to double capacity for manufacturing engineering polymers, the area will significantly **step up the Group's presence on the Asian market** as a key player serving numerous sectors – from the **automotive and electrical/electronics industries to consumer and industrial goods**.

The Group has had production operations in China since 2006, when it first opened in a small factory in Jiangsu Province. In 2012 it moved to a larger site, to then start on the construction from the ground up of this new **fully-owned facility**, designed for future scalability, as required.

RadiciGroup invested **€35 million** in the development of the new complex, sited on **36,000 square metres** of land, around half of which is occupied by **production and research & development** facilities. The rest houses offices, meeting rooms and communal areas, along with gardens and parking areas.

The state-of-the-art complex features the most advanced green building technologies available today, for which it is **LEED Gold** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. This international standard for **high-performance green buildings** incorporates parameters such as benefits for the environment and human health, the reduced consumption of water, energy efficiency and the use of environmentally-friendly building materials and solutions. Notable features of the Suzhou site include the installation of a **continuous monitoring system** to ensure the energy efficiency of the building, rooftop **solar panels** to produce renewable energy, and a **rainwater recycling system** to meet the water needs of the site.

The site has also earned **GBL-2 Star certification**, a Chinese standard for building sustainability, demonstrating the attention China focuses on green building solutions.

A choice perfectly in keeping with the **RadiciGroup's sustainability strategy**, designed to build **industrial and business growth** on the **responsible use of resources** and a **commitment to human rights, labour rights and individual rights**.



*“Working in harmony with the environment and people runs deep in our veins,” explains **Angelo Radici, President of RadiciGroup**. “That’s been true ever since the 1940s, when we first opened in Italy as blanket manufacturers, to then diversify our operations and move closer to our customers around the world. Since starting up manufacturing operations in China more than fifteen years ago, we have grown immensely, together with the local market. Our materials are used by customers that in turn manufacture in China to satisfy the needs of local consumers. If years ago there was a shortage of skilled workers, today the Suzhou district is highly developed and people are skilled and specialised in various fields. In our case, that has also enabled us to retain our workers, drastically lowering turnover compared to the past, and so some of the solutions that we research and develop in China become benchmarks for the entire Group, thanks to our international network.”*

Looking back over the RadiciGroup’s time in China, the motivations underlying the decision to operate in the country have not changed, remaining essentially the same three: the **positive economic trend** and future outlook for growth; the concentration of **global customers** in the area, who demand the same **guaranteed product standards** throughout the world; and a **customer service approach** to guarantee fast turnaround times and develop innovative solutions together.

*“The new site,” says **Alberto Sessolo, Country Area Manager for RadiciGroup High Performance Polymers in China**, “puts us in a position to serve the market even better, thanks to the new R&D labs and wide open spaces that are fully automated and efficient from all points of view. Even the production facilities are state-of-the-art, to best meet the needs of our current market, but also the potential market. In recent years,” adds Sessolo, “we’ve grown in terms of turnover and volumes, and so even the manufacturing area needed to be expanded. The current layout has boosted production capacity by thirty thousand tonnes per year, and it’s been designed so that both production and the warehouses can easily be scaled up, as required. This facility is today the biggest, by space and capacity, of the eight in total around the world serving RadiciGroup High Performance Polymers. Today our people show a strong sense of belonging to the Group, underpinning our sustainable and shared growth.”*

The facility currently employs around 120 people. **The commitment to the health and safety of workers** is of central importance and was a key focus for the design of the new building, in terms of wider spaces for the safer handling of goods, safety improvements in the loading of raw materials and a reduction in manual work and exposure to dust. To promote the **wellness of workers**, design details also focused on **aesthetic elements and comfort**, creating premises that are welcoming and soundproof, with lots of greenery surrounding the building, which can be enjoyed from inside thanks to large windows overlooking the grounds.

*“Today we are celebrating a major milestone of our growth in China since 2006,” remarks **Maurizio Radici Vice President and COO of RadiciGroup**, “another step forward on the path of shoring up the RadiciGroup*

*around the world, and on the Asian continent in particular. International expansion, as a' strategy bringing us closer to our customers, has rewarded us and we want to push ahead with this chapter of our growth with greater determination and effort, demonstrating to our partners that we are willing and able more than ever to take up new challenges on global markets. The investment in China is part of a global growth plan which over the last two years has seen more than **€85 million** of investments made in our High Performance Polymers business area, distributed across manufacturing sites in North America, Europe, and Asia. The objective is to expand our total production capacity, and in doing so guarantee growth, sustainability and innovation in our high performance polymers business."*

RadiciGroup High Performance Polymers is a leading multinational manufacturer and supplier of engineering polymers (polyamides, polyesters and other materials) worldwide. Its manufacturing facilities and sales network span the globe, with research and development activity targeted increasingly on high performance polymers. RadiciGroup High Performance Polymers manufactures products that find application primarily in the automotive, electrical/electronic, water management, consumers goods, and heavy manufacturing industries. In 2022, the business area posted sales of €629 million.

RADICIGROUP – With approximately 3,000 employees, sales of €1.542 billion in 2022, and a network of production units and sales offices spanning Europe, North and South America, and Asia, RadiciGroup today is a worldwide leader in the manufacture of a vast range of specialty chemicals, polyamides, high performance polymers, and advanced textile solutions, including nylon and polyester yarns, recycled yarn, bio yarns from renewable sources, nonwovens, and personal protection equipment for the healthcare and manufacturing sectors. Its products build on advanced chemical know-how and the vertical integration of the polyamide supply chain. They are developed for applications in a wide variety of industry sectors, including the Automotive, Electrical/Electronic, Consumer Goods, Apparel, Furnishings, Building, Home Appliances and Sports sectors. Underpinning the RadiciGroup's strategy is an overriding commitment to innovation, quality, customer satisfaction, and social and environmental sustainability. With its macro business areas – Specialty Chemicals, High Performance Polymers and Advanced Textile Solutions – RadiciGroup is part of a broader industrial group encompassing textile machinery (ITEMA), energy (GEOGREEN) and the hotel business (SAN MARCO).

RADICIGROUP PRESS OFFICE

Marisa Carrara

marisa.carrara@radicigroup.com

+ 39 345 9148892

WWW.RADICIGROUP.COM

