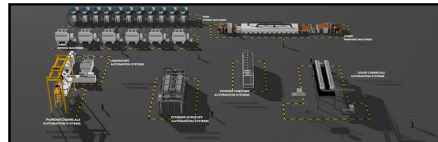


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Riopele invests 35 million to be the most modern factory in Europe

Riopele's 35 million investment plan is in its final stages, in particular in the areas of digital transition and sustainability. The aim is to transform the company, based in Vila Nova de Famalicão, into the most modern factory in Europe.



In the last decade, the number of company employees has increased 23% to 1039 (by the end of 2020). In the technical, research and development, logistics, commercial and sustainability areas, Riopele already employs over 150 employees, around 18% of the company's total. The number of professionals with university degrees has risen to 118 - an increase of 46% since 2010 - representing more than 10%.

Founded in 1927, Riopele is one of the oldest Portuguese textile companies and an international reference in creating and producing fabrics for fashion and clothing collections for some of the most prestigious international brands.

"We have positioned ourselves to become the main reference in Europe. We're investing in cutting-edge technology like the automation and efficiency of new equipment, creating a digital platform, monitoring the factory floor, and implementing an artificial vision system in the weaving area. We're also optimising processes and strengthening internal skills", said José Alexandre Oliveira, Chairman of Riopele.

After eight years of growth, Riopele is investing in other complementary business areas such as the automotive industry and strengthening its position in the professional and military segments.



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Pulcra Chemicals achieves first acquisition with Devan



Pulcra Chemicals has announced its first acquisition in its history by acquiring fellow-industry player Devan. Devan is known from its antimicrobial range BI-OME, its large sustainable track record with a.o. probiotics solutions, a wide range of recently introduced bio-based textile finishes and a long standing in Thermoregulation and Flame Retardants. Devan has offices in the UK, Portugal, the US and a team in Shanghai.

"The acquisition of Devan will support our vision of being the leading international benchmark for sustainable chemistry," said Mr. Ümit Yaldiz, Chief Executive Officer of Pulcra Chemicals Group. "Both organizations have deep histories of creativity, innovation excellence and a shared commitment to care for our communities.

"For us, Pulcra Chemicals is the natural next step in the development of Devan", comments Sven Ghyselincx, CEO of Devan. "After a long and successful ownership by Pentahold, we are pleased to integrate into a larger Textile chemistry player like Pulcra Chemicals. This new home will allow the innovative Devan finishes to find a faster way into the global textile market and will help the textile industry with more sustainable products".