



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **INVER TO ACQUIRE BECKERS' POWDER COATINGS OPERATIONS IN EUROPE**

Inver S.p.A., the Italian company specialised in industrial liquid and powder coatings, and AB Wilh. Becker, one of the leading paint and coatings manufacturers in the world, announce the agreement for Inver S.p.A. to acquire the European powder coatings businesses of AB Wilh. Becker.

Inver is acquiring Becker Powder Coatings' ("BPC") four European production plants located in France (Thouars), UK (Liverpool), Poland (Debica) and Italy (L'Aquila). BPC's French and UK businesses are the top three and top five in their respective markets and this strong position gives Inver the ability to achieve a solid competitive platform and to further penetrate these attractive European powder coatings markets, characterised by high entry barriers.

The Polish business, due to its geographical location and focus, will significantly increase Inver's presence in the strategically important emerging markets of Eastern Europe.

Finally, the specialisation of BPC's Italian plant in aluminium profiles for the architectural market will allow Inver to consolidate its position in this specialist market in Italy and Europe.

Inver S.p.A. is excited at the prospect of completing an acquisition which will almost double the scale of its existing powder business. It will provide an excellent platform for establishing a higher profile in the European industrial coatings market. This acquisition will make Inver the 4<sup>th</sup> largest producer in the European powder market.

AB Wilh. Becker is pleased to have reached agreement with Inver, for the sale of its European powder coatings businesses. This disposal enables Beckers to focus their energy and resources on further developing their market leading positions in industrial coatings, wood coatings and artists' materials.

Giovanni Domenichini, the CEO of Inver, stated:

"This acquisition is perfectly in line with Inver's strategy, demonstrating the strong desire to reach a European and international identity. Becker Powder Coatings has a very good fit with Inver, both in terms of European geographic sales coverage as well as product range and technology".

Erik Urnes, the MD of AB Wilh. Becker, stated:

"AB Wilh. Becker is pleased to have found a home for Becker Powder Coatings which offers the business and its employees good possibilities for further development. The divestment is a part of the Beckers' strategy to focus on our core business within industrial coatings, wood coatings and artist materials."

Advisor for Inver in the transaction were Tamburi & Associati - advisory division of Tamburi Investment Partners S.p.A. - and Clifford Chance.

Advisor of AB Wilh. Becker were Kaffenberger & Partners and Foley.

Bologna, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008



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AB Wilh. Becker

Established in 1865, Beckers is Europe's leading manufacturer of coil coatings, specialist coatings for metals and plastics, wood coatings, and the world leader in artists' materials.

For more information, visit [www.becker.se](http://www.becker.se)

Inver S.p.A.

Established in 1934, Inver operates from a single ultramodern facility in Italy, with a policy of continuous investments in equipment and R&D. This has enabled the company to be among the leaders in the specialities segment of Industrial coatings in Italy.

>For more information, visit [www.inver.com](http://www.inver.com)

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