Rhodia investing in innovative textile fiber technology

The company is setting up new texturizing and weaving equipment

Innovation is the axis of growth in textiles

Launch of new Sustainable White yarn expands the portfolio of products with a sustainable footprint

São Paulo, Brazil, June 17, 2015 - Rhodia, a Solvay Group company, is investing in fiber and smart polyamide textile yarn production technology, to meet the growing market demand for innovative textile products. The investment, of around R$ 50 million, is being made in the latest equipment in texturing area and the modernization of textile weaving machines.

The investment is aligned with the growth strategy for the Fibras Global Business Unit, under a plan that includes increased productivity and competitiveness of its activities through a series of actions related to industrial and commercial operations, while reinforcing the development of sustainable innovations in yarns and fibers - a segment in which this area of the company is recognized nationally and internationally.

**Sustainable innovations** - "Innovation is a key axis for our growth and the development of the textile sector, considering the market demand for new products that effectively create value," says Renato Boaventura, who is as of July 1 will take over as CEO of the Solvay Group's Fibras Global Business Unit.

"While consumers previously wanted quality and comfort, they now want textiles that combine these characteristics with features that can boost well-being and performance, and which are aligned with sustainability. These benefits can only be offered by smart textile fibers," says Boaventura.

The Fibras Global Business Unit has a number of projects in its pipeline of textile innovations with a sustainable footprint. Research and innovation is driven by large global trends, related to increased demand for health and well-being, climate change combined with the scarcity of resources, the challenges of increasing urbanization, and to the advancement of technologies that increase connectivity among people.

"We have a big goal to double the sales volume of our innovations. Today, the products launched less than five years now account for 20% of our revenues and by 2018 we want to reach 40%," adds Renato Boaventura.

**Emana®, Amni® Soul Eco and Amni® Sustainable White** - The company was a pioneer in the launch of all the synthetic fibers and yarns in Brazil and was also the first
to develop polyamide micro-fibers and smart yarns that incorporate functions aimed at improving the wearers' well-being.

The latest textile innovations created in Brazil are Emana®, a textile yarn which reduces the signs of cellulite and slows muscle fatigue, and Amni® Soul Eco, the first polyamide textile yarn in the world that is biodegradable and which has been formulated to allow clothing made from it to decompose quickly when disposed of in a landfill.

At the Brazilian Fashion Show (June 21 to 23 in São Paulo) the company will launch Amni® Sustainable White - a white yarn that increases productivity and saves water, energy and products used in its manufacturing processes. As an added benefit, the new white yarn is resistant to the natural yellowing of textile fibers.

**Markets** - In addition to primarily supplying the Brazilian market, the Fibras Global Business Unit also works on exports, mainly of Emana®, which has been a success in several countries in Europe and Asia and which is being introduced to the North American market.

"The Brazilian textile industry has a huge capacity to produce innovations," says Boaventura, adding that Amni® Eco Soul, launched at São Paulo Fashion Week by designer Ronaldo Fraga, will be launched globally at the next ITMA - the world's leading textile trade show and congress, held every four years and which in November this year will be held in Milan, Italy.

**About the Fibras Global Business Unit**
A South American leader in polyamide 6.6 fibers and yarns, the Solvay Group's Fibras global business unit has an industrial unit in Brazil and development research laboratories in various countries, as well as partnerships and production agreements in Europe and Asia. Innovative and pioneering, the company serves the textile and industrial markets with high value-added products, marketed under the Amni®, Emana® and Rhodianyl® brands.

For further information, please go to [www.emanafiber.com](http://www.emanafiber.com) and [www.amni.com.br](http://www.amni.com.br)

**About Solvay**
As an international chemical group, Solvay helps industry find and implement increasingly responsible and value-creating solutions. It generates 90% of its turnover in activities where it ranks among the top three global groups. Its products are used in various markets, such as energy and the environment, automotive and aerospace, electrical and electronics, aiming to improve clients' performance and consumers' quality of life. The group, headquartered in Brussels, employs about 26000 people in 52 countries and earned € 10.2 billion in 2014. Solvay SA (SOLB.BE) is listed on NYSE, Euronext Brussels, and Paris (Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBt.BR). In Brazil, the group also works with the Rhodia name, whose international activities were acquired in 2011.

Learn more at [www.rhodia.com.br](http://www.rhodia.com.br) and [www.solvay.com](http://www.solvay.com)

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