

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **THRACE-LINQ FURTHER EXPANDS WITH NEW GEOTEXTILE NONWOVEN LINE IN USA**

SUMMERVILLE, SC (USA)—January 07, 2008—Thrace-LINQ, a 100% subsidiary of The Thrace Plastics Group, has purchased a new needling line, supplied by NSC nonwoven (Asselin-Thibeau), to increase production capacity and help further expand the company's U.S. market.

The new line will have a capacity in excess of 7,000 tons/year and will feature innovations like Excelle® card, ProDyn® and Quat!sys®. The equipment also features the highly elaborated SCADA system, with the "Expert Supervision" version. Together with the unique design of the Excelle® card, it will enable Thrace-LINQ to shift quickly from product to product, increasing the productivity of the whole line as well as ensuring a consistent fabric quality.

The technologies allow the production of light and medium nonwoven technical fabrics at outstanding high production speeds, with excellent tensile strength properties where conventional technologies would compromise fabric evenness and productivity. The purchase allows the group to pursue its ambitious commitment to the Geosynthetics industry. The Thrace Group stretches its infrastructure across three continents, and Thrace-LINQ has earned a reputation for innovative geotextiles that stand the test of time.

Costas Halioris, Managing Director, explains: "To meet the growing Geosynthetics global market demand, we intend to expand and strengthen our distribution and sales network, while continuing to focus on new product development efforts."

To ensure success, the Thrace Group has committed itself to Thrace-LINQ, Inc. and its distributors through substantial financial backing. Halioris continues: "We will use the proceeds of The Thrace Group to purchase new nonwoven equipment and technology, improving both our operating efficiency and profitability. We anticipate additional capital investment over the next several years while we continue to strengthen Thrace-LINQ's core brands."

Thrace-LINQ's excellence and innovation set it apart in the Geosynthetics industry, adding incalculable value to the Thrace Group's already impressive portfolio. "This initial purchase is an important milestone," states Davis Taylor, the company's Vice President for Operations, "and we expect to secure solid growth in our nonwoven technical fabric business. We will remain competitive in the marketplace while providing real employment opportunities to South Carolina and unsurpassed products to the Geosynthetics industry worldwide."

**About Thrace-LINQ:** Thrace-LINQ, Inc. is a global supplier of woven and nonwoven polypropylene-based fabrics for a wide variety of textile applications. Our corporate office and United States manufacturing site is located in Summerville, South Carolina. Thrace-LINQ is a member of The Thrace Plastics Group, owned by Thrace Plastics Co. S.A. of Athens, Greece.

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