

## **AssiDomän buys two Italian corrugated packaging operations**

AssiDomän Packaging has reached an agreement to purchase two Italian corrugated packaging operations in the Milan area, Scatolificio Tassi and Demalena. The acquisitions, totalling about MSEK 100, will be effective by April 1 and will include the whole business with machinery and equipment.

The two companies have annual deliveries of about 55 Mm<sup>2</sup> of corrugated packaging and a turnover of about MSEK 130, with 85 employees.

AssiDomän Packaging will establish a new manufacturing unit in the Milan area by relocating the operations of Scatolificio Tassi and Demalena, and a new, state of the art, corrugated board machine will be installed. The existing machine at Demalena will be moved to Packaging's Policarton plant in Rovigo, near Venice, which currently is operating as a sheet plant. At the same time, Policarton will be expanded.

These acquisitions, combined with the extension of Policarton, will expand AssiDomän Packaging's operations in Italy to three production units for corrugated packaging with a total annual output of 220 Mm<sup>2</sup>. Packaging's Italian operations also include the Ania recycled paper mill, near Lucca in Tuscany, with a capacity of 135,000 tonnes of high quality liner and fluting. AssiDomän Packaging has a total turnover in Italy of about MSEK 1,000.

"By means of this acquisition and relocation, we are expanding our operations in northern Italy and taking a big step towards a stronger market position. We are also increasing our integration with Ania, which will get additional volumes," explains Ulf Kilander, President of AssiDomän Packaging.

"The acquisition also extends our European network of corrugated packaging plants so that we will be even better able to serve our pan-European customers," Mr. Kilander adds.

AssiDomän Packaging is AssiDomän's corrugated packaging business with production plants in eleven European countries and about 8,000 employees.

*AssiDomän is one of Europe's leading forest products companies. Production is concentrated to packaging paper, packaging and sawn timber. AssiDomän is one of the world's largest forest-owners. The Group, which reported a turnover of SEK 19 billion in 1996, has 16,000 employees.*

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20 February 1997

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