

PRESS RELEASE

INDUSTRY 4.0 FUND INVESTS IN TEXTBOND

Quadrivio Group's private equity fund makes its fourth investment and becomes the majority stakeholder in this leading producer of nonwoven fabrics

Milan, 16 July 2021

Industry 4.0 Fund has bought out Texbond from the investment fund HIG CAPITAL. The Quadrivio Group private equity vehicle that invests in technical innovation and the digital transition of SMEs now holds the majority stake in this company leading in the production of nonwovens.

Giuseppe Gaspari, founder and President, and Cristina Parisi, CEO, will keep their respective roles. They have also reinvested in the company, and are committed to supporting the investment plan standing as the cornerstones to the operation, which includes strengthening the managerial team and exploring new growth opportunities.

Founded in 1989 in Rovereto, in Trento province, Texbond produces and sells a high-tech nonwoven fabric suited to multiple purposes: it is in fact used in the health and construction sectors and, more broadly, in industrial contexts. Today the company is one of the main sector entities and stands out for its highly specialized know-how, its significant degree of customization, and the speed and flexibility of its manufacturing system, besides the great quality of its products.

Texbond manufactures and internationally exports its products: 55% of its turnover is generated in foreign trade. The main European Union markets it is present on include: Germany, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Spain.

Texbond closed the 2020 financial year on a turnover of €39 million and an EBITDA of €8.5 million.

The investment objective is to reinforce the company's leading position on its own market, strengthening research and development and investing in new production capacity.

The Quadrivio Group investment in Texbond belongs to a broader strategy by Industry 4.0 Fund, which is supported and managed in co-partnership with Roberto Crapelli. The fund aims to invest in Italian enterprises with a pronounced industry 4.0 approach, fostering their competitiveness and speeding up their development and international growth. Texbond is the fourth acquisition by the fund and follows those involving: F&DE Group, a leader in outsourced catering to hotels; Rototech, an Italian company that designs and manufactures plastic parts for the trucking, farming machinery and construction sectors; and EPI, a 'brick and click' enterprise that manages the official physical and online stores for top Italian football clubs and other prominent international brands.

Cristina Parisi, CEO of Texbond, commented: *"This operation draws on the good work and successes of the Texbond management team and its employees, because it is based on an efficient business model and a shared business plan for growth, in a market that is itself growing."*

Roberto Crapelli, Managing Partner at Industry 4.0 Fund, also expressed satisfaction at the transaction, adding: *“Following its first three investments, respectively in digitalized catering services to the hospitality field, in components and parts for ESG efficiency in industrial vehicles, and in digital sports merchandising, Industry 4.0 Fund is again expanding its portfolio, through an investment with high potential for global growth in a non-cyclical sector. The new business model underpinning this enterprising project by Quadrivio Group will stimulate growth not only with CAPEX investments and M&A operations, but also with intense use of digital technologies, these being industry 4.0.”*

For **Pietro Paparoni, Investment Director at Industry 4.0 Fund**: *“It is a structured operation that endeavours to achieve the best merging between shareholders’ and top management’s interests while reaching high efficiency in use of capital, to act as a catalyst for significant growth in turnover expectations in the coming years.”*

*“We are always really interested in investing in equity for entrepreneurial realities of our territory, such as Texbond” explains **Diego Pelizzari, General Manager of Mediocredito Trentino Alto Adige**, who adds “We follow the company in its crucial development path in partnership with a qualified investor, with whom we shared the business growth project. ”*

The Quadrivio Group team was assisted in legal aspects by Giliberti Triscornia & Associati (Mr Francesco Cartolano and Ms Chiara Cella); and for financial and tax matters by Russo De Rosa Associati (Mr Alberto Russo and Mr Alessandro Manas).

The accounting due diligence was carried out by PWC (Mr Federico Mussi), while the business due diligence was entrusted to Kearney (Mr Andrea Marinoni).

The Pavia e Ansaldo firm (Alberto Bianco, Lawyer) has been the legal counsel in the operation for H.I.G. CAPITAL.

On the seller’s side, Lincoln International (Mr Saverio Rondelli) acted as advisor; the financial and tax due diligence was entrusted to Deloitte (Ms Tamara Dulisio); the business due diligence to Roland Berger (Mr Francesco Ruccione).

The financing banks, coordinated by the debt advisory team at PWC (Mr Alessandro Azzolini) are: Intesa San Paolo, Monte dei Paschi di Siena and BPER Banca.

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Quadrivio Group | Industry 4.0 Fund

Quadrivio Group is active in the world of alternative investments, and has been operating in private equity for over 20 years.

Promoted and managed in co-partnership with Roberto Crapelli, Industry 4.0 Fund invests in the digitalization of SMEs, supporting them for international growth and adoption of 4.0 technologies.

The management team is made up of Alessandro Binello, Walter Ricciotti, Roberto Crapelli and Pietro Paparoni, with additional assistance from a highly specialized Senior Advisory Board.

Industry 4.0 Fund to date has invested in F&DE Group, a leader in outsourced catering to hotels (fedegroup.it), Rototech, an Italian company that designs and manufactures plastic parts for the industrial, farming machinery and construction sectors (rototech.it), and EPI, a ‘brick and click’ enterprise that manages the official physical and online stores for top Italian football clubs and other prominent international brands (episrl.it).

Info: quadriviogroup.com | industry4zerofund.com

Texbond

Founded in Rovereto (near Trento) in 1989 by Giuseppe Gaspari, Texbond is one of the main European manufacturers producing polypropylene nonwoven fabrics for special uses. Serving a variety of fields including the health, medical, construction, car manufacturing and farming sectors, the company is specialized in providing its clients with customized solutions, assisting them during the technical and technological development process.

Info: texbondspa.com

Mediocredito Trentino Alto Adige has been supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises for over 60 years with medium and long-term credit, financial advice and extraordinary finance operations. It is a leading Corporate and Investment Bank in advising and supporting companies through the activity of the six operating offices in Trento, Bolzano, Treviso, Padua, Brescia and Bologna, also by drawing on European funds. It takes the role of capital partner, with operations of intervention in minority equity shares, associated with shareholder agreements with the majority shareholder, aimed at development plans and any subsequent quotations on the capital market.

Info: mediocredito.it