

## PRESS RELEASE

ITEMA acquires 100% of BarcoVision, a division of the Belgian Barco Group. BarcoVision is a world leading producer of electronic control systems for textile machinery. The transaction has a value of euro 72 million. Itema was supported by the advisor ship of Banca Leonardo and by the consultancy of the Zonca, Briolini and Felli lawyer's office in Bergamo.

The acquisition of BarcoVision means that the group, based in the Orobic Alps and headed by Miro Radici, further strengthens its leadership in the textile machinery market, increasing the industrial concern's turnover to more than euro 700 million.

Itema – the Italian industrial group, headed by Miro Radici and world leader in weaving textile machinery, with a turnover of about 670 million Euros in 2006 – has today signed an agreement for the acquisition of BarcoVision, a division of the Belgian Group Barco NV, listed on Euronext Brussels.

BarcoVision, with total sales of more than euro 55.5 million in 2006 and EBIT of 11.3%, is currently the number one producer of sensors and manufacturing execution systems in the textile machinery market, with customers all around the world.

More specifically, this takeover will further strengthen Itema's position on the market, bringing Itema's total sales to over euro 700 million.

With BarcoVision as part of Itema, joining Eutron in Itema's Group's electronics business unit, the group based in Bergamo and headed by Miro Radici will further extend its product range and, at the same time, will penetrate new markets. For Itema this is the perfect opportunity to exploit synergies in production and industrial activities, thus illustrating the strategic importance of this acquisition.

"BarcoVision's entry in the Itema universe", stresses Miro Radici, Itema CEO, "boosts our world leadership in the textile machinery industry, especially in terms of technology and innovation. We now have some very interesting opportunities for future growth, especially in terms of our possible IPO, something we expect to complete within the next 2 years."

BarcoVision – which includes the 2 business units Loepfe and Sensors & Systems – currently has 3 production sites and 6 companies in Europe (UK, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany) and the USA.

BarcoVision is considered the world's number one producer of sensors and manufacturing execution systems for the textile machinery. It owns a multitude of innovative patents, with its products sold under the three leading brand names of Loepfe, Sedo and Treepoint. Its products YarnMaster, WeavingMaster and Sedomat are the benchmarks in Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing, the three macro areas of the textile machine industry.

Itema now has 4 specialised business units: **Weaving** with Promatech, Sultex, Itema Shanghai and First (weaving machines and accessories); **Spinning** with Savio and Istma (spinning machines), **Knitting with Steiger** (knitting machines) and **Electronics** with Eutron, and in the near future BarcoVision (electronic control systems for textile machinery). Itema currently counts about 2,500 employees, had total sales of euro 667 million in 2006 and is present in more than 90 countries.

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