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Itema Celebrates 50 Years of Somet and the First Industrial Rapier Loom

Colzate, Bergamo – In 2017 Itema celebrates the historic milestone of the 50 Year Anniversary since Somet establishment, forefather of the long success story of the Italian weaving Company. On the 14th of October, the celebration took place exactly where everything began, in the historic HQ based in Colzate, Bergamo province, with a party dedicated to employees, shareholders, stakeholders and select Customers, to celebrate together the fundamental milestones of the Company.

It all began in 1967 due to the famous intuition of the Seriana Valley entrepreneurs, one of the historic cradles of the Italian textile industry still today and a benchmark for the worldwide industry. Gianni Radici, an already successful entrepreneur, decided to diversify business family activities by adding another piece of the supply chain to his existing textile businesses. The same year, Somet – for the first time in the industry – invented, industrialized and launched the very first rapier weaving machine as we know it today, entirely revolutionizing the production of woven fabrics.

The Radici Family invested in Somet when it seemed just a gamble and the global successes of today only a far-fetched dream. Mr Gianni Radici dedicated himself to the new Somet venture with absolute dedication, strong passion and resolute commitment and surrounded himself since the beginning with valuable professionals renowned in the Northern Italy industry, such as Mr Aldo Arizzi (*owner of the Arizzi Foundry in Albino, Bergamo, and nowadays shareholder of Itema. Ed.: 60% of Itema's shares are owned by the 5 heirs of the founder, Mr Radici, and 40% by the Arizzi and Torri Families*) and Dr Gianfranco Ceruti, today President of Itema.

Somet grew over the years and built its path in the global market, improving year after year its looms, and getting closer to its Customers by opening branches all over the world. Somet expanded by acquiring historic names of the textile industry such as the the Swiss-based Sulzer Textil and the neighboring Vamatex. Market slowdowns were faced with perseverance, without ever surrendering and always believing in the tenacity and power of this Company.

The vital impulse of fathers lives in their sons, today at the reins of Itema and that are the main protagonists – along with the CEO Carlo Rogora – of the new course of the Company since 2012 steadily at the pinnacles of the worldwide weaving machinery industry.

Itema experienced in 2017 a further step in the increase of its weaving machines sales, mainly thanks to the undisputed market success of the rapier R9500 – the most successful rapier machine in recent history, the airjet A9500 – by far the most innovative airjet machine in the market, the rapier R9500terry – the absolute market leader in terry weaving on rapier technology, and – last but not least, the legendary projectile machine P7300HP, produced in the historic Sulzer plant in

Switzerland, which remains the absolute best technology when it comes to weaving the most demanding technical fabrics and high-quality premium denim.

Itema looks back with gratitude to the origins and with hope and excitement to the future, carrying on the legacy of breakthrough innovations as the mission of the Founding Families, still at the helms of the Company today. Other celebratory events are planned through the end of the year, including Golden Jubilee-themes Customer Days on November 28th and 29th in Shanghai.

It was just a dream, with passion it became a solid reality.

About Itema

Itema is a leading global provider of advanced weaving solutions, including best-in-class weaving machines, spare parts and integrated services. The Company is the only manufacturer in the world to provide the top three weft insertion technologies: rapier, airjet and projectile, with an ample product portfolio and a commitment to continuous innovation and technological advancement of its weaving machines. For more information about Itema, please visit www.itemagroup.com



Itema Group HQ in Colzate, Bergamo Province – Italy where the celebration took place



Anniversary Cake Cutting Ceremony with (from left to right) Paolo Radici, Danilo Arizzi, Aldo Arizzi, Carlo Rogora, Angelo Radici, Gianfranco Ceruti



The Itema weaving machines protagonists of the celebration with an innovative an never-seen before in the industry 3D mapping show



Some moments of the party



Guided Tours in the world-class manufacturing site