



HITCO Selects Plataine's Total Production Optimization (TPO) FabricOptimizer™ to Automate and Optimize its Composites Cutting Processes

Israeli developed solution to reduce material consumption and machine set-up time in support of HITCO's drive for operational excellence

Gardena, California / Tel-Aviv, Israel, January 20, 2014 - HITCO Carbon Composites, a subsidiary of SGL Group – the Carbon Company and Plataine Technologies Ltd. have announced HITCO's selection of Plataine's Total Production Optimizer (TPO) FabricOptimizer™ solution to improve its manufacturing efficiencies through increased material yields and manufacturing throughput at HITCO's Gardena, CA plant.

With this announcement, HITCO also deepens its partnership with the Israeli industry as described by HITCO's President, Dave Kucharski: "Plataine's solution will increase our competitiveness through tangible savings in raw material and improved throughput, and will thus help us manage rising production cost pressures. This agreement is set to be the first of many with Israeli-based companies as we continue to develop partnerships with local best-in-class component suppliers and technology vendors."

Plataine's Total Production Optimization (TPO) solution offers composite component manufacturers a fully integrated solution for dynamic optimization and tracking of the composites structure manufacturing processes, from the Freezer to the Autoclave. Seamlessly integrated to the manufacturer's ERP, CAD and Production Floor systems, TPO creates ready-to-cut production plans by optimally selecting the composite materials to use and generating the optimal production plan. TPO achieves this by matching the order due date, order quantity, actual material expiration date and size (width & length) while considering the full order plan for additional optimization opportunities.

Additionally, TPO drives significant cost savings and increased productivity by offering higher material utilization, better inventory management and faster - more flexible - time to market.

TPO further reduces costs by automating routine manual tasks and eliminating any errors associated with them.

"We are excited about our partnership with HITCO and proud to have met their highly demanding and extensive due diligence process. Plataine's TPO solution is the natural match for HITCO's well-known leadership in production automation. Their selection highlights our technological and market excellence," says Plataine's President and CEO, Avner Ben-Bassat.

About Plataine

Plataine Technologies is a leading provider of production optimization software solutions for manufacturers of composite-material, wood, textile, metal and foam products. Plataine's production optimization solutions enable manufacturers to be more competitive by increasing material utilization, improving productivity and shortening manufacturing cycles to ensure on-time delivery of products to customers. Plataine's solutions are used by hundreds of manufacturers worldwide, including Composites



Horizons, Hexcel, IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries), Interstate Foam & Supply, Steelcase and Kaman Aerospace. Plataine has offices today in the United States, Europe, China and Israel, with partners and distributors worldwide. For more information, visit www.plataine.com or contact your local Plataine office.

About HITCO Carbon Composites

HITCO Carbon Composites, a subsidiary of SGL Group – The Carbon Company, is a leading supplier of composite structures and advanced materials primarily for the aerospace / aircraft and defense markets. Founded in 1922 and based in Gardena, California, HITCO was an early specialist in composite structures and materials. Today HITCO continues to pursue its goal of becoming the premier Tier II Aerostructures supplier for commercial aviation, military and space applications. Additionally, HITCO has a leading global position as a supplier of high temperature materials and carbon-carbon brakes for military & commercial aircraft, high performance race cars and high value industrial applications.

About SGL Group – The Carbon Company

SGL Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of carbon-based products and materials. It has a comprehensive portfolio ranging from carbon and graphite products to carbon fibers and composites. SGL Group's core competencies are its expertise in high-temperature technology as well as its applications and engineering know-how gained over many years. These competencies enable the Company to make full use of its broad material base. SGL Group's carbon-based materials combine several unique properties such as very good electrical and thermal conductivity, heat and corrosion resistance as well as high mechanical strength combined with low weight. Due to industrialization in the growth regions of Asia and Latin America and increased substitution of traditional with innovative materials, there is a growing demand for SGL Group's high-performance materials and products. Products from SGL Group are used predominantly in the steel, aluminum, automotive and chemical industries as well as in the semiconductor, solar and LED sectors and in lithium-ion batteries. Carbon-based materials and products are also being used increasingly in the wind power, aerospace and defense industries.

With 44 production sites in Europe, North America and Asia as well as a service network covering more than 100 countries, SGL Group is a company with a global presence. In 2012, the Company's workforce of around 6,700 employees generated sales of €1,709 million. The Company's head office is located in Wiesbaden.

Further information on the SGL Group can be found online at: www.sglgroup.com

Important note:

This press release may contain forward-looking statements based on the information currently available to us and on our current projections and assumptions. By nature, forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, as a consequence of which actual developments and results can deviate significantly from these forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements are not to be understood as guarantees. Rather, future developments and results depend on a number of factors; they entail various risks and unanticipated circumstances and are based on assumptions which may prove to be inaccurate. These risks and uncertainties include, for example, unforeseeable changes in political, economic, legal, and business conditions, particularly relating to our main customer industries, such as electric steel production, to the competitive environment, to interest rate and exchange rate fluctuations, to technological developments, and to other risks and unanticipated circumstances. Other risks that in our opinion may arise include price developments, unexpected developments connected with acquisitions and subsidiaries, and unforeseen risks associated with ongoing cost savings programs. SGL Group does not intend or assume any responsibility to revise or otherwise update these forward-looking statements.