



*Highly creative*

## **STAHL NEWS**

2012 10 08

### **STAHL RE-OPENS GLOBAL EXCELLENCE CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE LEATHERS IN WAALWIJK**

In the presence of some 100 customers from all around the world, Huub van Beijeren, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Stahl Holdings, opened Stahl's Global Centre of Excellence for Performance Leathers in Waalwijk, The Netherlands, on Thursday 20th September. An investment of over €1 million underlines Stahl's conviction that there is a healthy future for leather in the performance leather industry and further strengthens its global leading position.

The project included a complete overhaul of the existing laboratory facilities and the installation of new state-of-the-art equipment which will enable a customer's production environment, both wet-end and leather finish, to be copied. It gives the technicians ample space and opportunity to develop new technologies, train customers in the laboratory and work together on special tailor-made projects.

In his opening speech Huub van Beijeren underlined the responsibility that Stahl has accepted over many years towards reducing the environmental impact of ethical topics related to the leather industry.

Recent developments have attracted strongly growing interest in Stahl's latest technology, Stahlite, a revolutionary technology that reduces the weight of the finished leather by 30 – 40% whilst retaining its full and luxurious appearance. Originally designed for the aviation industry it has since rocketed into the automotive industry with huge success. The innovative technology is completely different from solutions offered by others: in that both the strength and thickness of the leather are maintained instead of just reducing the thickness of the leather. Stahlite is cost-efficient and environmentally friendly because it requires shorter production times, less water, less power and fewer chemical processes.

## **Background Stahl**

*Stahl is the leading leather and performance coatings creator.*

*Stahl is a customer-focused company that specialises in providing high quality chemicals, dyes and coatings for leather, as well as flexible and non-flexible substrates for performance coatings, textiles and related products. Our products are applied in automotive, upholstery and fashion products, as well as in industrial applications. Stahl's products have been well-recognised internationally for many decades already and enjoy an excellent reputation for quality. We take pride in providing a high level of technical service to our customers.*