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PRESS RELEASE

Stahl India opens Global Center of Excellence for Shoe Finish

On 31st January 2013 Stahl held the inauguration ceremony for its brand new, state of the art, Centre of Excellence for manufacturing its range of Aftercare and Shoe Finish products. The Centre has been built within the compound of Stahl India Pvt Ltd's manufacturing complex in Ranipet, which is in the heart of the leather and shoe industry in south India, and is around 150km from Chennai. The official opening was performed by Group CEO Huub van Beijeren along with Stahl India Managing Director, Tuncay Deriner, who were assisted by Stahl India's senior Shoe Finish distributors from all over India. The opening was attended by members of the Stahl global management team, Stahl Technical Shoe Finish staff from all over India, and many of Stahl's customers alongside Stahl India management and staff. Stahl's Shoe Finish staff from Pakistan and Bangladesh were also present at the function.

Mr Van Beijeren said that "this was a proud moment for the Stahl group, to have the only facility of its kind in India dedicated to manufacturing products especially for the Shoe industry, giving Stahl's customers access to the very latest products, fully compliant with the latest legislation. This demonstrates Stahl's continued commitment to the leather and shoe sector at a time of uncertainty in the industry. Mr Van Beijeren reminded the audience that Stahl is the only company to be able to give technical support and service from Beamhouse through to Shoe Finish. After the inauguration the visitors and guest enjoyed a tour of the whole plant.

Stahl has been active in India for more than 35 years, and the Stahl India plant in Ranipet started operating in April 2000. The company chose Ranipet as a centre to manufacture its range of Aftercare and Shoe Finish products because of its belief in the Indian leather and shoe industry, and the performance and adaptability of the local management and workforce. A very important consideration was the strategic importance in being close to one of the areas marketed down as a key area for the future of shoe and leather goods manufacture in India as well as the ability to ship to other markets in the world. The new plant has the

capacity to make almost 3000 tonnes of product for use in the Shoe industry, Leather goods manufacturing and Aftercare markets. The plant has specially designed equipment, made in India for the manufacture and packing of a full range of products needed and used to add value to shoes and leather goods, particularly creams, top spray's, dipping finishes, cleaners and edge paints. Also in the new unit is a fully automated unit to manufacture and pack wax bars used in shoe finishing.

Stahl is the world's leading leather chemicals company, employing the top technicians world-wide. With 8 production locations and some 30 service centres all over the globe, Stahl technicians are always very close to the customers to assist them in achieving the best possible quality. From wet-end to finishing processes, Stahl can provide tailor-made solutions for each leather application: from automotive, upholstery, shoe and leather goods to shoe finish. Furthermore, Stahl has a division for synthetic added value coatings that can provide additional solutions to the fashion industry

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