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textile

JOURNAL

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ONE WAY

Towards sustainable textiles.
Uniting ecology and economy.





Mark Garrett; Group Chief Executive Officer and President & CEO of Textile Effects Division

Mark Garrett, Archroma Group CEO, visits Pakistan

Archroma is a global, diversified leader of dyes and specialty chemicals with operations in more than 40 countries and 34 production sites worldwide.

With the industry's broadest product portfolio, they serve many of the world's top brands in textiles, packaging, paper, paints, and coatings. A team of more than 4,500 passionate professionals offers industry-leading expertise in manufacturing, research & technology, operations, technical customer support, and sustainability.

Mark Garrett, CEO of Archroma Group says, "The Archroma team is diverse, transnational, and entirely united in one aim: to lead industry towards a more sustainable future for customers, markets, and people. We have pursued

this singular goal for a decade through consolidation, innovation, and collaboration."

Mr. Mark Garrett, Group CEO of Archroma was accorded a warm welcome on his erstwhile visit. His leadership and vision have undoubtedly steered Archroma to new heights of success.

PTJ Team conducted an exclusive interview with Mr. Mark Garrett during this visit. We are delighted to pen it for our readers.

What are your impressions about Pakistan in general and Archroma Pakistan in particular?

Archroma has significant operations in Pakistan, including world-class manufacturing plants, research and testing facilities, and a training academy, as well as strong relationships with the textile and

apparel industry here. I have been very impressed by the team's commitment to collaboration and excellence. There is a strong sense of purpose and belonging and a clear focus on understanding customers and creating value for them. Our people here take immense pride in their work and their camaraderie is a key factor in our success.

My impression of Pakistan is also very positive. I believe that the dedication I have witnessed at Archroma is indicative of the region's potential for growth. Globally, the textile and apparel industry is facing many challenges – from rising costs to shifting consumer trends and more stringent environmental regulations. But when companies like Archroma Pakistan invest in their people to foster community amid transformation, we can help bring about positive change.

Please tell us about how you are transforming Archroma for the future.

Archroma celebrated its tenth anniversary last year and marked a milestone in the company's development with the acquisition of the Textile Effects division of Huntsman Corporation. This merger allowed us to combine the strengths and expertise of two industry leaders to create a powerhouse in the specialty chemicals and dyes sector, harnessing synergy to benefit our customers, employees, and the industry as a whole.

Archroma, which originated from Clariant's textile, paper, and emulsions businesses, has a rich history dating back to 1886. We are a global leader in specialty chemicals, with a strong focus on sustainability and innovation. This commitment is evident in our "Zero Discharge" initiative and other sustainability projects at Jamshoro, Landhi and our other plants around the world. Huntsman's Textile Effects has long been known as a sustainability-focused industry innovator, with a heritage that dates back to 1758.

As a merged company, we now have the industry's most extensive portfolio of products and technologies, ranging from dyes and chemicals to digital inks, end-to-end tailored solutions, and more. With an expanded global footprint and industry-leading manufacturing and research capabilities, our capabilities extend across the entire textile value chain, enabling us to provide our customers with top-quality products and services.

Archroma today is driven by a vision of delivering innovation, sustainability, and value to the textile industry. Our sustainable solutions, digital advancements, and close partnerships with customers position us as a dynamic and forward-thinking organization in the specialty chemicals and textile sectors. We are proud of our heritage and excited about the future as we continue to lead the way in meeting the ever-evolving needs of our customers and the industry.

What key markets does Archroma serve?

Archroma serves a wide range of markets, with **textile and apparel** as a primary market where we provide innovative solutions to manufacturers.



Whether it is denim, sportswear, swimwear or formal wear, we offer products that enhance color, performance, and sustainability. We also serve the **home and hospitality markets** with innovative solutions for home textiles, upholstery, carpets, bedding, and other applications. Our products help enhance color vibrancy and resistance to external factors.

As demand for **technical textiles** grows in sectors like healthcare, construction, and protective clothing, we provide solutions that enhance the performance, durability, and safety of these materials.

The **automotive industry** is another important sector that demands high quality and sustainable solutions for interior and exterior materials. As you can see, our products and solutions have diverse applications in industries beyond key markets to help our customers extend their capabilities and market share.

Archroma has a well-established and strong manufacturing base in Pakistan. What shall be the position of Archroma Pakistan in the new global setup?

Pakistan is an essential manufacturing hub and regional gateway for Archroma that helps us diversify our operational and market effectiveness on a global scale. Our manufacturing base here plays a pivotal role in the domestic market and also serves our growing Asian markets.

Crucially, our strong local presence allows for collaboration and innovation, and for tailoring solutions to meet the specific needs of these regions. Archroma

Pakistan's commitment to sustainability and compliance, along with its supply chain efficiency, contributes to our global competitiveness too.

We are very proud to have been named a Top 25 Company by the Pakistan Stock Exchange in 20 out of the past 21 years. This reflects our commitment to Pakistan and to the highest levels of financial management and environmental, social and governance performance.

How committed is Archroma to Research and Technology and innovations. What role will Archroma Pakistan's Center of Excellence play in these developments?

We recognize that innovation is a key driver for addressing industry challenges, enhancing sustainability, and meeting customer needs – and we are deeply committed to fostering innovation and advancing Research and Technology (R&T). As a hub for innovation and sustainability research, Archroma Pakistan's Center of Excellence is integral to this commitment. Archroma Pakistan actively invests in R&T, working to create cutting-edge products and processes. These innovations range from sustainable dyes and chemicals to digital solutions that optimize production and reduce environmental impacts.

The Center of Excellence in Pakistan is an essential part of Archroma's global R&T network. It collaborates with multiple Archroma R&T centers worldwide to accelerate the development of sustainable and high-performance products. This collaborative approach allows Archroma to

harness the expertise of our diverse teams, facilitating breakthroughs in textile and specialty chemicals and paper solutions. By combining the regional insights and expertise of Archroma Pakistan's Center of Excellence with the global network's resources, we can rapidly respond to market needs and environmental challenges. The center acts as an innovation catalyst, driving our mission to lead in sustainability and innovation, both locally and on a global scale. It exemplifies Archroma's commitment to research, technology, and innovation.

In the present scenario, what is the anticipated contribution of Archroma towards meeting growing environmental challenges and climate change, and what will be the role of Archroma globally to overcome current and future challenges being faced by the textile industry?

Archroma is committed to addressing environmental challenges and climate change in the industry. We aim to play a pivotal role in achieving a more sustainable and planet-conscious future. To this end, we continuously develop innovative solutions that enhance the environmental footprint of our products and processes while helping our mill customers remain competitive and deliver high-value end-articles that perform as required. Our portfolio of advanced chemical and dye technologies is designed to minimize water and energy consumption, improve resource efficiency and plant productivity, and enhance end-article performance and longevity. Our global initiatives focus on promoting responsible manufacturing practices, reducing waste and emissions, and fostering a circular economy.

For example, we recently launched a new suite of powerful end-to-end solutions, Super Systems+, that combine fiber-specific processing solutions and intelligent effects to help brands mills positively impact their economic and environmental sustainability.

Archroma recognizes that combating environmental challenges and addressing climate change requires collaboration and innovation. As part of our global efforts, we actively engage with partners across the textile industry, including manufacturers, brands, and suppliers, to promote sustainable practices and share knowl-



edge. We foster transparency and a culture of responsible chemistry. Our aim is to inspire the entire textile value chain to adopt sustainable approaches and reduce environmental impact. Furthermore, we continue to invest in research and development to discover new, environment-friendly solutions that can revolutionize the industry and drive it towards a more sustainable future.

We would like to hear about Aniline-free Indigo production at Jamshoro. We understand that it is a unique production plant in the Archroma world. How do you see this within the current Archroma setup?

This is indeed a unique and groundbreaking facility within Archroma, aligning perfectly with our commitment to sustainable practices and responsible manufacturing. The elimination of aniline, a substance traditionally used in indigo dye production, is a significant step forward in enhancing the sustainability and safety of denim processing in Pakistan and around the world.

Jamshoro was chosen for aniline-free indigo production because it such an advanced plant with a great track record in innovation and ecofriendly solutions. It is was the first Zero Liquid Discharge plant in the Archroma world, for example.

This pioneering plant is not only a technological marvel but also a testament to Archroma's vision of creating products that are both planet-friendly and high-performing.

Our aniline-free indigo production plant at Jamshoro is a strategic asset within Archroma. It also reinforces our position as a global leader in sustainable

chemistry and allows us to better meet the evolving needs of our customers and the industry at large.

Please share your comments on the Sustainable Effluent Treatment plant at Jamshoro.

The establishment of a Sustainable Effluent Treatment (SET) plant at Jamshoro is a significant milestone for Archroma and a testament to our unwavering commitment to responsible environmental practices. The plant is based on the Zero Liquid Discharge principle, ensuring that no liquid waste is discharged into the environment, thereby minimizing the ecological footprint of our operations.

The SET plant in Jamshoro demonstrates our proactive efforts to address the environmental challenges associated with industrial processes. Through this system, we are not only complying with stringent environmental regulations but also going above and beyond to reduce our water footprint and give back to our local community by providing clean drinking water. The plant supplies approximately 13,000 gallons of clean water to our neighbors each day, free of charge.

This initiative at Jamshoro reflects Archroma's broader commitment to sustainability and innovation. By treating and reusing wastewater effectively, we are contributing to the conservation of this precious resource and helping to combat water scarcity issues that plague many regions of the world. Moreover, it sets an example for the entire industry by showcasing that sustainable practices can be integrated into manufacturing processes without compromising productivity or product quality.

Where do you see Archroma in the next 5 to 10 years in the global chemicals business?

I see Archroma solidifying its position as a global leader in the chemical industry. We will maintain our strong commitment to sustainability and continue to set new standards for eco-friendly products and processes. Our collaborations with existing and new industry partners and stakeholders will ground us as we promote sustainable practices to make a meaningful impact in key industries and regions.

Archroma's dedication to research and technology will result in ongoing product advancements, potentially including breakthroughs in areas like bio-based chemicals, nanotechnology, and digital solutions. I expect us to play a vital role in advancing the circular economy, with a focus on efficient recycling, waste reduction, and cradle-to-cradle principles.

Regulatory compliance and environmental responsibility will remain at the core of the company's operations, adapting to evolving regulations and anticipating more stringent sustainability and safety standards for the years ahead. Digital technologies and data-driven solutions will also continue to be important in our operations, enabling tailored, efficient, and sustainable offerings for our customers.

Archroma will prioritize people development by nurturing talent, fostering a culture of innovation, and promoting diversity and inclusion. We will need to remain agile and adaptable to seize new opportunities in an ever-changing global landscape.



Overall, Archroma's future will be marked by a commitment to enhancing the world through sustainable practices and innovation. We touch and color people's lives every day, everywhere and this brings a huge responsibility to lead the textile and apparel industry towards a more sustainable and prosperous tomorrow.

What are your expectations regarding global apparel and textiles business in 2024? Where do you see Pakistan positioned in the global textile business of Archroma?

Against a backdrop of heightened environmental awareness and global economic and geopolitical instability, the apparel and textiles business will continue to evolve in 2024 in response to market trends. Sustainability, innovation, and quality will remain pivotal drivers of success in the industry. Pakistan is renowned for its strong textile manufacturing base, and Archroma has a well-established presence here. We anticipate that

Archroma Pakistan will play a vital role in our global operations by serving as a hub for innovation, manufacturing, and sustainability, especially helping customers reduce the environmental footprint of textile production while enhancing product quality.

Mr. Garret, thank you for valuable time, this has been a fascinating interview and I know our readers will learn a lot from this. Do you have any message for our readers?

Archroma remains deeply committed to Pakistan and to our customers and partners here. We firmly believe that economic and environmental sustainability can and must go hand in hand for brands and mills to thrive today. As the world moves towards more circular business models, Pakistan has the opportunity to embrace cleaner and more innovative ways of working and open up new markets as a textile and apparel leader. ♦

