

## Press release

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## Bekaert inaugurates *the greenest steel cord plant*

Seizing the opportunity of the expansion of its steel cord plant in Shenyang (Liaoning Province, China), Bekaert took up the challenge to build its *greenest steel cord plant* ever. The inauguration took place today in the presence of Mr. Wang Jindi, Director-general of Liaoning Provincial Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation. This expansion project adds another 25 000 tons of tire cord capacity, bringing the total annual tire cord capacity of Bekaert in China to 450 000 tons by year-end.

### Contributing to a greener Shenyang...

With this initiative Bekaert is raising the bar for its manufacturing footprint by creating a new standard while actively supporting the targets set by the Chinese government and the Liaoning Province in terms of energy conservation and environmental protection.

### ... by unlocking the potential of green technologies

In order to build the greenest steel cord plant, Bekaert pulled together the newest technologies for optimized energy conservation, reduced environmental impact and enhanced workspace comfort. Major improvements were realized for each of these 3 categories.

Bekaert designed and manufactured new equipment for optimized energy-efficiency. Immediate measurable returns include 18% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, waste volume decrease by a factor of 8, a 35% cut in material handling loads, and a decrease in machine noise exposure by 8 dB(A) on average.

Geert Roelens, Bekaert Group Executive Vice President Steelcord, stated: *"The opening of the greenest steel cord plant in Shenyang represents a milestone in the sustainable development of our manufacturing footprint. It shows that innovation is not just a driver of economic growth but that it can also contribute to environmentally-friendly ways of manufacturing. To turn our ambitious plan into reality was only possible thanks to the excellent collaboration of internal Bekaert teams and the instrumental support from the Liaoning province and Shenyang city and Economic & Technological Development Zone government."*

Mr. Wang Jindi, Director-general of Liaoning Provincial Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, added: *"Bekaert demonstrates responsibility and leadership by piloting green technologies in their production plant, the first initiative of its kind in Shenyang. We are proud that they chose Shenyang as a location to develop and operate this highly energy-efficient facility."*

### Bekaert Profile

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a global technological leader in its two core competences: advanced metal transformation and advanced materials and coatings, and a market leader in drawn wire products and applications. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing over 25 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generated €3.3 billion combined sales in 2009.

### Bekaert in China Profile

Bekaert is present with a manufacturing platform in China since the early nineties. The company experienced significant growth in China in recent years and operates 17 sites at 8 locations there (Shenyang, Weihai, Jiangyin, Wuxi, Shanghai, Suzhou, Chongqing, Huizhou), including 13 manufacturing plants, an R&D center and Engineering plant, a trading company, and the Regional Headquarters Bekaert Asia. At present, close to 10 000 people are working for Bekaert in China. On 21 September 2010, Bekaert announced an acquisition and partnership with Xinyu Steel.

### Bekaert's greenest plant expansion in Shenyang

For more information on the greenest steel cord plant and pictures of the inauguration event: [read more](#).