

Bekaert

BERTL.BR / BEKB.BB

Engineering & Machinery
Belgium

Current price € 78.40
Target price € 78.00
Market cap € 1,687m
Free float 57%

	EPS (€)	P/E
FY05E	5.85	13.4
FY06E	6.24	12.6
FY07E	6.37	12.3

Acquisition Conflandey's US business**Outperform**
Rating Unchanged

On Friday, Bekaert announced to have purchased various machinery and equipment from Conflandey Inc., an affiliate of the french Tréfileries de Conflandey, in the USA. The purchase price amounts to \$ 4.5m. Furthermore, Bekaert will act as Conflandey's exclusive agent within the USA and Canada.

Conflandey Inc., located in Whiteville (North Carolina), is the single most important supplier of stitching wire, supplying most of the printing companies and binderies in North America. The company is also an important supplier of wire for the industrial staples market. During the first quarter, Bekaert will transfer the equipment to its wire plant in Shelbyville (Kentucky) where it already manufactures industrial staple wire products and fine speciality wires for all kinds of applications.