AMORIM

**PRESS RELEASE**

# CORTICEIRA AMORIM joins the consortium that will produce new cork composite compounds for very high-speed trains

**Mozelos (Portugal), July 12, 2011**

CORTICEIRA AMORIM, S.G.P.S., S.A., the world leader in the cork industry, announces that its subsidiary Amorim Cork Composites, S.A., of the Cork Composites Business Unit, is a member of the consortium that will develop the EcoTrain project, aimed at developing new cork composite compounds to be used in very high-speed trains.

This project consortium is made up by Amorim Cork Composites, Alstom Portugal, ISQ and PIEP.

This project is aimed at developing solutions that make next-generation trains more eco-efficient, lighter and more comfortable. Floors, partition walls and side panels are some possible places where cork may be used.

Further details on this Project are set out in the partners' joint press release, which is reproduced bellow.

More than 893 thousand euros invested in the EcoTrain project

# Consortium produces cork composites for next-generation trains

Mozelos, July 12, 2011 - A consortium formed by Amorim Cork Composites (a member company of CORTICEIRA AMORIM), Alstom Portugal, ISQ and Pieper ("Pole for Innovation in Polymer Engineering") is producing new cork composite components to be used in very high-speed trains. The EcoTrain project represents a total investment of € 893,361.20.

Funded from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under COMPETE - Operational Programme for Competitiveness Factors (POFC), this project is aimed at developing solutions that make next-generation trains more eco-efficient, lighter and more comfortable. Floors, partition walls and side panels are some possible places where cork may be used.

The use of this sustainable raw material in the rail industry will enable that the following strategic objectives will be achieved:

- reduction in $CO_2$ emissions;
- reduction in fossil fuel usage;
- compliance with the new European regulatory framework for the rail industry;
- increased thermal and acoustic comfort;
- growth in the value of exports of a natural resource that is vital to the Portuguese economy;
- contribution to the enhancement of the value and sustainability of the cork oak forest, an highly important indigenous ecosystem.

Cork's excellent thermal and acoustic performance, resistance to fire, preservation of cork's properties throughout its useful life and high resistance to wear and tear coupled with the numerous environmental benefits arising from its use are the key factors behind the use of this material in such a complex and highly demanding project.

## THE CONSORTIUM

**Amorim Cork Composites**, the leading promoter, has extensive expertise in the development of innovative composite cork solutions. This project enables the use of technology existing in the Company and its adaptation to the rail industry. As a supplier of materials, in this project ACC is near not only to the decision maker but also to the business solutions integrator providing a value-added product.

The involvement of an international partner - **Alstom Transport**, a French company - in the project brings the world global research and development competence centre in rail Eco-Design to this project. Alstom Transport is the preferred customer of the solutions being developed for the project and its mission is to validate the results at an international level.

The expertise of **ISQ** in the area of Sustainable Development and materials analysis and testing contributes to the selection of the most innovative side panel solutions developed by Amorim Cork Composites, which solutions best meet the highest eco-efficiency and performance standards. Eco-design and life cycle analysis of different options are one of the first criteria for choosing one or another solution, which will be complemented by tests to be developed and conducted by the ISQ-accredited lab network. ISQ has a high level of international expertise in developing and testing new materials and products for the transport, aviation and aerospace industry.

**PIEP** addresses the R&D needs related to materials engineering and fastening systems.
PIEP offers a wide range of expertise in materials characterization (materials mechanical, structural, chemical, environmental and surface characterization), product engineering (product development, advanced computational analysis, materials behaviour modelling and optimization, process modelling and optimization, manufacturing tool design) and processing technologies (composites technologies, recycling, decoration and finishing techniques and other processing technologies).

**Consortium**

AMORIM ALSTOM ISQ piep inovação em engenharia de polímeros

**Funding**

COMPETE QREN QUADRO DE REFERÊNCIA ESTRATÉGICO NACIONAL UNIÃO EUROPEIA Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional

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## About CORTICEIRA AMORIM, SGPS, S.A.:

While tracing its roots to the XIX Century, CORTICEIRA AMORIM SGPS has become the world's largest cork and cork-derived company in the world, generating over Euro 450 Million in sales throughout 103 countries. CORTICEIRA AMORIM SGPS and its subsidiaries are an integral part of a conservationist effort to guarantee the survival of hundreds of thousands of cork trees throughout the Mediterranean Basin. We are proud of our contribution to the correct utilisation of these important forests that are home to several endangered species throughout the region. We encourage you to learn more by visiting informative websites such as www.amorim.com and www.corkfacts.com.

## CORTICEIRA AMORIM, SGPS, S.A.

Public company
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Share capital: € 133,000,000,00
A company incorporated in Santa Maria da Feira - Portugal
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