

# SAF AFRICAN LEATHER

The complete magazine from hide to finished leather in Southern and Eastern Africa



## ALL AFRICAN LEATHER FAIR

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- Materials, Manufacturing & Technology
- Leather, Shoes, Gloves, Garment and Leather Goods
- Chemicals, Machinery and Accessories

Organizer



# ELIA

Ethiopian Leather Industries Association

[www.elia.org.et](http://www.elia.org.et)

Tel: +251 115 156144 Mob: +251 911 408596 Fax: +251 115 508935

E-mail: [elia@elia.org.et](mailto:elia@elia.org.et), P.O.BOX:12898 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



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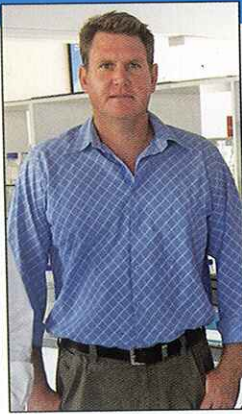
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## Kennedy to leave DyStar Boehme

**PIETERMARITZBURG (SA)** – Sean Kennedy, MD of DyStar Boehme Africa since DyStar bought out Boehme internationally, will be leaving the company at the end of

February to become CEO of Fibertex SA on March 1.

**Klaus Kadletz**, president of DyStar's Turkey, Africa and Middle East region, will take over as MD, based mainly in Turkey.

Product manager, Leather, **Granville Steyn**, will report to him.

The Danish-based group Fibertex opened its SA subsidiary in 2010 to supply needlepunch and spunmelt nonwovens. The company is jointly owned by Fibertex, the Danish Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries (IFU), and the SA company Safyr. Safyr previously represented Fibertex.

The new plant is in Isithebe and has "a high-tech, state-of-the-art and competitive production system with a view to manufacturing and marketing needlepunch products – primarily geotextiles for road works, civil engineering, the building industry, agriculture and home & garden," Kennedy said, "and also products for the automotive industry as well as the furniture, bedding, filtration and composites industries."

"From a long-term strategic perspective, the project serves as a bridgehead – not only to southern Africa, but eventually also to other markets in the Southern Hemisphere such as Australasia, India, the Middle East and South America."

## SA Paper subsidiary Simitri achieves BEE status

**KEMPTON PARK (SA)** – Chemical supplier Simitri, a division of SA Paper Chemicals, has been accredited as a Level 6 B-BBEE company, and "is aiming to improve on this year by year", according to a release.

"Our customer spend with us is therefore further enhanced through our B-BBEE accreditation in accordance with B-BBEE legislation," the release said. "This means that our customers may count 60% of their spend with us as B-BBEE spend when finalising their B-BBEE scorecard." – Quintin Marais [Tel: +27(0)11 922 1678, fax: +27(0)11 393 4246, cell: +27(0)82 301 1055]

In terms of the certification, Simitri's status is:

**Company Name SA Paper Chemicals (Pty) Ltd, Trade Name SA Paper Chemicals, Certificate Number GEN 10161 REV1**

**B-BBEE SCORE PER ELEMENT**

**Equity Ownership 1.97, Management & Control 4.75, Employment Equity 4.13, Skills Development 9.77, Preferential Procurement 10.23, Enterprise Development 15.00, Socio Economic Development 5.00.**

**B-BBEE Recognition Level 60 %, B-BBEE Status Level 6 Contributor, Black Ownership 3.30 %, Black Female Ownership 0.30 %, Value Added Supplier No, Enterprise Development Beneficiary No, Beneficiary Category N/A, Applicable Scorecard Generic Scorecard, Applicable BEE Code Gazette Codes 29617, Verification Date 13-April-2010, Expiry Date 12-April-2011, BVA 020.**

## FGL says new metal-free tannage matches wet blue performance with much less effluent

**PORT ELIZABETH (SA)** – Italian leather chemicals manufacturer FGL International has launched a metal-free tanning system which it says outperforms both chrome and current wet white systems, not just in terms of meeting environmental legislation, but in terms of area yield and dyeing properties.

It claims the system, branded Releasys, produces leather with chemical, physical and mechanical properties comparable with chrome-tanned leather, and with light and heat fastness superior to wet white leather.

Although it is more expensive than chrome, it says the higher area yield reduces the difference in cost between the two methods.

It says the product's launch at the Detroit Motor Show in January 2010 was very successful.

FGL International is represented in SA by Leather Systems SA cc, owned by former tanner **Tony Stottelaar**.

"It's not often something really different comes along," he said. "This is one of those things, and as is so often the case, it was stumbled upon when the research was into something else entirely."

Leather Systems and FGL International have had limited exposure to the tanning industry in SA, but now "FGL wants to enter the market here much more forcefully, and we'll be supporting them," he said.

**Andrew Lofthouse** will be the technician working with tanneries.

This is how FGL describes Releasys:

"Releasys (REvolutionary LEAther SYStem) is a revolutionary tanning process conceived and developed by FGL International to increase the production efficiency of tanneries in an environment-friendly way.

"Releasys is the result of three years of research carried out by FGL International's R&D and tested by tanneries specialised in the production of leather for every type of application.

"Releasys offers the following immediate benefits:

"An increase in the performance of leather, with a greater surface yield of +7% compared to conventional methods. This process is slightly more expensive than the traditional one, but the advantages in terms of cutting gains, and the reduction of aniline costs by approximately half, keep the price per square foot unchanged compared with chrome tanning.

"Less waste, lower disposal costs and less pollution. Metal-free leather which can be disposed of as non-hazardous waste with a further reduction in disposal costs and a lower impact on the environment. Releasys solves the problems of heavy metals in wastewater treatment. The patented process is metal-free and the leather is 100% recyclable.

"Better colour yield compared to traditional natural (metal-free) methods with the possibility of obtaining a whiter wet Releasys than wet white, on which the colours will be cleaner and brighter. This system provides a neutral leather base, characterised by a better dyeing strength of the substratum, producing brighter, more even, fuller and deeper colours, for either light-coloured or dark-coloured shades. Moreover this procedure uses less dyestuffs.

"Although this process is metal-free, it gives finished leather with a better chemical and physical performance and an increased resistance to tearing and bursting. This allows the leather to be used for footwear, automotive and furniture upholstery, garments and leather goods." – [Tel: +27 (0)41 487 0847, fax: +27 (0)41 487 1991, email: [tony@leathersystems.co.za](mailto:tony@leathersystems.co.za)]

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