



Press Release – 18th September 2006

Major printing benefits

grupo Portucel Soporcel (gPS) produces the whitest paper in the market

- **gPS' papers are also market leaders when it comes to whiteness**

grupo Portucel Soporcel, one of the largest European producers of uncoated fine papers, is proud to offer the whitest paper ever available in the market (CIE rating 171). This has been confirmed by exhaustive tests on the main competing products performed by independent and certified laboratories.

This outcome can be seen as a reward for the efforts gPS has been doing to enhance its papers' whiteness, making them even more competitive in the markets for both office paper, where gPS already holds a strong position, and graphical paper in which it is the European leader.

The decision of increasing the whiteness of its papers was set as a result of in-depth studies performed amongst end-users and paper distributors in various European countries, according to whom whiteness is one of the main features when it comes to improving printing quality and colour contrast, resulting in important benefits for the end-user.

Improving whiteness is only a part of gPS' strong innovation strategy with already clear results, out of which we can highlight the pioneering launch back in 1991 of the first pre-print guaranteed paper, and the creation of brands that currently lead sales in both the Premium Office (Navigator) and Premium Offset (Soporset) segments across the world.

grupo Portucel Soporcel is constantly striving for excellence, be it in terms of its products' performance in office and printing equipment, or as regards its printing quality. A whole range of prestigious major brands, such as Navigator, Pioneer, Inacopia, Discovery, Inaset and Soporset make proof of it.



grupo Portucel Soporcel



About *grupo* Portucel Soporcel

gPS is the largest producer of uncoated fine papers in Southern Europe and the fourth largest in Europe. The Group holds a very strong position in the office paper market and the leading position in Europe when it comes to graphical papers.

In February, *grupo* Portucel Soporcel gave the go ahead to the installation of a new paper mill in its industrial site in Setúbal, requiring an investment of some EUR 490 million. This will allow the company to significantly strengthen its competitiveness in the paper market and take on a leading position in the European market for fine uncoated papers (UWF).

The new production unit will house the largest and fastest UWF paper producing machine in the world, a state-of-the-art facility that has a nominal paper production capacity of 500 thousand tons per annum.

The Group has sales offices in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, and Austria, as well as in the United States, and sells to over 70 countries in five continents.

www.portucelsoporcel.com