

## **Toyobo Europe to transfer Breathair<sup>®</sup> operations in Europe to Toyobo Joint Venture PHP Fibers**

Toyobo Europe GmbH (TEG), a group company of Toyobo Co., Ltd., will transfer European operations related to Breathair<sup>®</sup> to PHP Fibers GmbH (PHP Fibers), a Toyobo joint venture with Indorama Ventures Public Company Limited in Germany. The transfer will become effective on September 1, 2017.

### **1. Background**

In 2013, Toyobo introduced Breathair<sup>®</sup> to the European market through Germany-based TEG manufacturing for sale in the market. Breathair<sup>®</sup> fibers are arranged in a complex three-dimensional structure to be used for cushion materials. Since then, Breathair<sup>®</sup> operations have grown as European makers found the material suitable mainly for bed mattresses. Its sales in Europe are projected to grow further in the future.



Breathair<sup>®</sup>

PHP Fibers is keenly interested in Breathair<sup>®</sup> as a highly functional cushion material. PHP Fibers itself produces polyamide and polyester filament yarns and other materials for industrial use, including those for automobile-related purposes.

### **2. How the deal was reached**

Toyobo and PHP Fibers have been discussing a business model in which the two companies work together to expand production and sales of Breathair<sup>®</sup> in Europe. They reached an agreement under which Toyobo transfers Breathair<sup>®</sup> operations in Europe to PHP Fibers.

### **3. How operations will be transferred**

PHP Fibers will manufacture Breathair<sup>®</sup> by utilizing the production assets of TEG and continue to serve current customers as normal while cultivating new businesses in automobile-related markets by utilizing its extensive sales networks in Europe.

Toyobo and TEG will give as much support as possible to expand PHP Fibers' Breathair<sup>®</sup> operations by providing it with manufacturing and quality-control technologies as well as the right to use the trademark.

## **About PHP Fibers**

Company name: PHP Fibers GmbH  
Head office: Industrie Center Obernburg , 63784 Obernburg, Germany  
Representative: Managing Director Jochen Boos  
Main operations: Manufacture and sale of polyamide industrial filament yarn for airbags and tire cord, polyamide resins, industrial polyester filament yarn for mechanical rubber goods, and broad and narrow woven fabrics.

\* In 2014, Toyobo acquired PHP Fibers jointly with Indorama Ventures Public Co., Ltd. (Head office: Bangkok, Thailand, Chief Executive Officer: Alope Lohia). With this acquisition, Toyobo and PHP Fibers now supply about 40 percent of nylon yarn for airbags in the global market.

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