

Italy's Cristini invests \$20 million in Quebec plant to serve world market



Paul Legault (left), Chairman of the Board for Cristini North America, and President Vittorio Montiglio display architect's drawing of the new plant. Mr. Montiglio says: "Our goal is to capture 5 to 7 per cent of the North American market over the next five years." The plant will add about 70 new jobs to Cristini's Lachute workforce.

Cristini North America — a subsidiary of one of Europe's major textile firms — has chosen its existing site at Lachute, Quebec, for a \$20 million, five-year expansion of production facilities to serve newsprint and paper industry customers in the North American and world markets.

The new 20,000 square-metre plant will be equipped with robotic and other state-of-the-art equipment which Cristini will use to broaden its existing North American line of products for these sectors.

Cristini has been selling paper machine clothing in Canada since 1990 and in the first five years,

revenues soared from \$1 million to \$5 million.

Cristini's decision to locate its North American expansion at Lachute results from the excellent performance record of the plant, which has been producing carrier

ropes for paper manufacturing machines since it opened in 1992. Commenting on the company's decision to locate its expanded facilities at Lachute, Paul Legault, Board Chairman of Cristini North America, says the decisive factor was the availability of a large pool of textile-skilled labour. Another important factor was lower land costs, compared with Europe.

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In an interview with *Canada Investment News*, Vittorio Montiglio, President of Cristini North America Inc., said the company is expanding its facilities to meet a steep increase in North American demand for these products which has resulted in increasing pressure on its European facilities.

Mr. Montiglio attributes the Canadian subsidiary's rapid growth to the strong performance of the Lachute workforce and to the "strategic location of Quebec in eastern Canada which makes it easy to serve pulp and paper plants in both Canada and the United States." Another plus, he says, is "the smooth working relationship between Italian and Quebec executives."

plant has been specializing in production of "carrier" ropes for manufacturers of newsprint and other paper products in Canada, the U.S., South America, Europe and the Pacific Rim.

The company's corporate parent, S.A. Giuseppe Cristini S.p.A. of Bergamo, Italy, is a world leader in the textiles industry, serving customers in 50 countries and earning world revenues of approximately US\$60 million in 1994. Founded in 1914, the company is famed in the industry for its success in blending traditional textiles industry craftsmanship with robotics and other new advanced production technology. In addition to the Lachute installation, the company operates plants in Italy and France. ♦

Cristini in Canada

A record of rapid revenue growth

