



Aurora Wins 2019 Sustainable Business Recognition Award from SGIA, the Specialty Graphic Imaging Association

The annual contest spotlights companies that have invested in, and implemented, new programs that reduce environmental impact

(Yorkville, Illinois, April 1, 2019.....) Aurora Specialty Textiles Group has won SGIA's 2019 Sustainable Business Recognition award, which spotlights leaders in the global printing industry that have implemented programs that reduce that company's environmental impact and protect and improve employee safety.

The award was announced Monday, March 25, 2019 by SGIA. From that date to Earth Day 2019 (April 22, 2019), SGIA will conduct a social media campaign that highlights the winners as global leaders in the development and implementation of sustainable business practices.

In 2018, Aurora implemented the first full year of a massive manufacturing overhaul that involved investing over \$1 million in new equipment and software designed to significantly reduce Aurora's environmental impact. The program also involved spending millions more retrofitting and redesigning the new plant with sustainability upgrades. This included integrating state-of-the-art sustainability measures throughout the company's facilities, operations and manufacturing processes, and retraining of employees at all levels.

Aurora's accomplishments in this area "are a testament to the dedication required to accomplish goals directed at becoming a sustainable business," said Michael E. Compton, Chair of the Advisory Council, Sustainability, Safety, Health and Personnel at SGIA. "The Sustainable Business Award recognizes the achievements involved with improving business efficiency and reducing the environmental impact."

Aurora's investments in next-generation sustainability technologies are consistent with their overall philosophy. "We apply the same innovative approach and commitment to the products that we make and the customers we serve as we do to sustainability," said Mark Shaneyfelt, Director of Sales and Marketing for Printable Textiles at Aurora. "We pride ourselves in being progressive in all phases of our business."

SGIA is the trade association for professionals in the industrial, graphic, garment, textile, electronics, packaging and commercial printing industries looking to grow their businesses through the incorporation of the latest printing technologies.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by SGIA for the commitment Aurora has made to reduce our environmental impact while improving our business efficiency,” said Marcia Ayala, Vice President at Aurora. “We have been dedicated to adopting processes and technologies that are both state-of-the-art and sustainable. We embraced the challenge and are committed to continuing to find new, innovative ways to both improve our business and promote global sustainability.”

Metrics related to Aurora’s sustainability are available on the [Aurora website](#) and will also be shared by SGIA over the course of their Earth Day social media campaign. **A quick summary of Aurora’s sustainability story is listed below.**

Aurora’s new state-of-the-art, North American manufacturing operation is strategically equipped with next-generation bleaching, finishing, fabric skewing and coating technologies. With its next-gen capabilities, convenient location and streamlined operations, Aurora is ideally poised to help their customers meet and surpass market demand for their products.

For additional information, go to:

<https://www.sgia.org/programs/awards-competitions/sustainable-business-recognition>

Media Notes:

Aurora Specialty Textiles Group, Inc. is a global leader in coating, dyeing and finishing of both woven and non-woven fabrics. Based in Yorkville, Illinois, U.S.A., the company has a 136-year tradition of innovation and in 2015 invested in a new state-of-the-art, wide width coating and finishing line, and a new facility, that dramatically expand their ability to serve customers. Products include digitally-printable textiles, specialty home products, tape-backing products and technical textiles for a wide variety of industries. Aurora Specialty Textiles Group, Inc., is a Meridian Industries, Inc. company and ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified.

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You can learn more about Aurora Specialty Textiles Group:

Online at www.auroratextile.com

Via Twitter at @Aurora_Textiles

On Instagram at aurora_textiles

A few highlights from Aurora's Sustainability Project:

- 2018 Aurora was the first year of full implementation of our comprehensive sustainability program and the result is a profitable, next-generation textile manufacturing operation that serves as a global model for the textile and printing industries for sustainably responsible manufacturing.
- Implementation of Aurora's sustainability program involved investing over \$1 million in new equipment, moving from Aurora's former plant in Aurora, Ill. to a new manufacturing facility in nearby Yorkville, Ill., and spending millions more retrofitting and redesigning the new plant with sustainability upgrades.
- The program also involved integrating state-of-the-art sustainability measures throughout the company's facilities, operations and manufacturing processes and retraining of employees at all levels.
- Aurora's sustainability program is based on an ongoing commitment to developing and executing a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS) that involves the participation of employees at all levels of the organization and a commitment to maintaining ISO.14001:2015 certification, a comprehensive globally-accepted standard and framework.
- Aurora continues to set goals to further enhance our sustainability program. Aurora's 2019 EMS goals include reducing landfill waste, reducing energy consumption and improving waste water processing.
- Along the journey, the energy efficiency improvements helped shape improvements to employee health and safety. The natural gas and electricity components of Aurora's plant were designed to significantly reduce Aurora's manufacturing carbon footprint:
 - In the plant Aurora changed all lighting to LED lighting, which is energy-efficient, long-lasting and reduces landfill waste. This includes 75+ exterior lights and 500+ interior lights.
 - Annual water usage is currently 50% less than the amount of water used annually 4 years ago.
 - Aurora has realized a 50% reduction in natural gas consumption and 10% reduction in electric consumption versus 4 years ago.
 - That reduction in natural gas and electricity consumption represents an annual reduction of 4,134 metric tons of carbon dioxide. That is the equivalent of 465,178 gallons of gasoline per year or 4,523,015 pounds of coal burned.