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COMP/M. 4936 - BENTELER / SGLT / JV

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

On 17 October 2007, the Commission received a notification of a proposed creation of a joint venture pursuant to Article 4(2) of Council Regulation (EC) 139/2004. Benteler Automobiltechnik GmbH and SGL Technologies GmbH intend to create a full-function joint venture company which will develop, manufacture and distribute lightweight solutions based on carbon fibers and metal hybrids for the automotive industry.

The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- (i) For Benteler Automobiltechnik GmbH: development and production of automotive components, modules and systems for ride and handling, safety and emission.
- (ii) For SGL Technologies GmbH: production of carbon fibers, aerospace and industrial composites, expanded graphite, carbon ceramic brake discs and fuel cell components.
- (iii) For the joint venture company: development, production and distribution of components for the automotive industry using carbon fiber reinforced plastics and carbon fiber reinforced plastics hybrid structures.

The creation of the joint venture company will provide automotive manufacturers with lightweight solutions based on carbon fibers and metal hybrids. This responds to the need of car manufacturers to meet the increasing requirements relating to reduced CO₂ emissions by facilitating the production of lighter vehicles requiring less fuel consumption.