

Brintons

press release

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BRINTONS BREAKS GROUND IN CHINA

SUZHOU, CHINA – Brintons, the largest producer of custom woven Axminster carpet, recently held a ground breaking ceremony at its new plant site in Suzhou, China.

Brintons Carpet Manufacturing (Suzhou) Limited represents a \$23 million (US) investment in carpet production. The facility will contain approximately 16,500 square metres of manufacturing space and employ 350 workers on four shifts. The vertically-integrated production processes at the new factory will include dyeing, yarn preparation, weaving and finishing. When completed, the factory is expected to produce approximately 1 million square metres annually in woven Axminster carpet for all types of commercial installations sold through Brintons Commercial Sales Division. The majority of production will be exported to projects within the USA, Australia and the Pacific region.

“We are extremely pleased to be moving forward with this expansion of our manufacturing capabilities,” stated John Tuck, Brintons’ Manufacturing Strategy Director. “The Suzhou Industrial Park provides us with an excellent environment in which to manufacture the finest quality carpets in the world.”

According to John Tuck, the factory is being built within the guidelines of the company's environmental and social policy and will be a LEED-Certified building. "All processes are being developed in line with Brintons' imminent compliance with the ISO 14001 standard. As part of this environmental commitment, a Zero Effluent discharge waste water treatment plant will be installed to treat waste water outflows from the dye house," he added.



(photo: L to R, Harry Reilly, Barry Yang, John Tuck)

The ground breaking ceremony included speeches by Harry Reilly, Brintons' Group Managing Director, Peter Johansen, Group Finance Director and Chairman of Brintons Carpet Manufacturing (Suzhou) Limited, and by local government representative Barry Yang, Chairman of Suzhou Industrial Park. Andrew McAllister, representative of the British Department of Trade, also took part in the ceremony. The laying of a foundation stone was followed by other festivities, including the Chinese custom of painting the lion's eyes, entertainment by local musicians and fireworks.

Other Brintons executives in attendance included: Scott Haberman, General Manager of Brintons Carpet Manufacturing (Suzhou) Limited, Xander Okhuizen, Sales and Marketing Director for Australia, Asia Pacific region, Jessica Nyberg, Sales Manager for Asia. In addition, key guests included: Edwin Ang, Anna Lu, Mr. Ge from Ploy Regen, Eddie Ng and John Ma from Peg B. Asia, and Kevin Li from Harvest Hill.

The factory will become fully operational by the end of 2010, when it will become the fourth major weaving facility serving Brintons global sales network. Other manufacturing facilities are located in the UK, Portugal and India.

(More photos on next page . . .)

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Founded in 1783, family-owned Brintons is headquartered in the UK and currently operates plant facilities in the UK, India and Portugal. Its high-end woven Axminster and Wilton broadloom carpets, tiles and handcrafted rugs have become the standard of luxury and performance for impressive business and residential properties throughout the world.

As the world's largest woven carpet manufacturer, Brintons is committed to the concept of thinking globally and acting locally. Design studios, offices and agents are located in major markets around the globe to assist customers in creating extraordinary commercial interior environments. For additional information, contact your Brintons representative or visit

www.brintons.net/commercial for a complete list of contact locations.



Architectural renderings: front view with offices (top image) and back of factory (bottom).

