

Press release
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**Sandler Nonwoven Corporation formally inaugurated
Ribbon-cutting and beer-mug lifting in Georgia**

On October 5th, Sandler Nonwoven Corporation in Perry, Georgia, USA – first overseas subsidiary of German nonwovens manufacturer Sandler AG – was formally inaugurated with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a proper Bavarian evening termed the Sandler Oktoberfest.

In the afternoon, about 80 guests attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Perry plant, among them representatives of the community, Houston County and the state of Georgia. State Governor Nathan Deal addressed the audience: “Thank you is all we can say. This is another great German company. Germany is one of the three leading investors in the state of Georgia. [...] And you are an important part of continuing that tradition.” He also emphasised the team effort involved in setting up a new plant: “All of you are an important part of what allowed this to come to its fruition.”

On his part, Dr. Christian Heinrich Sandler, President & CEO of Sandler AG, thanked the Sandler teams in Perry and Schwarzenbach/Saale, as well as the regional partners in Georgia, who actively supported the establishment of the new facility. “When the decision to build a plant here in the U.S. was finalised, I told my management team: We are facing a marathon”, Dr. Sandler recollected. “At that point we did not know where in the US our finishing line would be. [...] In Perry, we found people eager to welcome us as part of their community and new team members eager to take part in building up Sandler Nonwoven Corporation. [...] And yet, the plant here in Perry is but one stage of our marathon.”

Together with Governor Deal, Dr. Sandler cut the ceremonial ribbon, officially inaugurating the facility. This ceremony also provided a new starting signal: for the future development of Sandler Nonwoven Corporation with the resulting benefits to the community. During their visit, Governor Deal and his wife Sandra also got a first-hand look at nonwovens production during a tour of the plant.

A few hours later, Dirndl, Lederhosen, Oktoberfest-games and German cuisine set the proper Bavarian atmosphere at the evening event appropriately called the “Sandler Oktoberfest.” At Southern Bridle Farms in Fort Valley, Georgia, approximately 300 guests celebrated this truly historic day for Sandler. Among the attendees were customers and business partners, representatives from the political sphere and local organisations, members of the regional and trade press, Sandler Nonwoven Corporation’s members of staff and Sandler AG’s management team.

Tobias Baumgaertel, President of Sandler Nonwoven Corporation, thanked his team, Sandler AG and the local partners for their dedication and support, without which setting up the new manufacturing plant would not have been possible. He also expressed his gratitude towards his family, who took this major step into a new life in the U.S. together with him. Tobias Baumgaertel emphasised the warm welcome Sandler had received in Perry and summarised that the nonwovens manufacturer could not have found a better location for its first overseas plant.

Dr. Christian Heinrich Sandler took a moment to reflect on the beginnings of the company, which had been founded by his great-grandfather in 1879, and milestones on the road that led the German nonwovens manufacturer to Perry. Dr. Sandler expressed his sincere thanks to Tobias Baumgaertel and his team, the staff of Sandler AG, and his own family, who hold various positions within the company and continue to shape the family-owned business. Representatives from the political sphere

and regional organisations in Georgia had extended a friendly welcome to the Sandler team and lent strong support. Last but not least, Dr. Sandler thanked the customers, whose continued trust in Sandler made this step possible.

The significance of Sandler's investment to the region was emphasised by the ensuing speakers. Houston County Commission Chairman Tommy Stalnaker, Angie Gheesling, Executive Director of the Houston County Development Authority, as well as Jimmy Faircloth, Mayor of the city of Perry, thanked the company for deciding to invest in Perry and for the contribution to the region's development. On this occasion, Jimmy Faircloth presented the German guests with special gifts: Matching the evening's motto, they received personalised beer mugs and the symbolic key to the city. This gesture made it clear: The family-run company Sandler was welcomed to the "great family of Perry".

Subsequently, Dr. Ulrich Hornfeck, Board Member & CCO of Sandler AG, led the attendees in prayer and said a blessing.

Bavarian food specialties and music then tuned the guests in on the Oktoberfest atmosphere. A beer garden outdoors invited the people to linger and was very popular. In a comfortable atmosphere, attendees also got the chance to try their hand at typical Oktoberfest-games, such as beer-mug lifting or hammering nails into a log, in the course of the evening. The location – a spacious barn with a rustic air about it – was ideally chosen to fit the theme of the night.



Caption:

Left to right: Phillip Ebbinghaus, Finance Director Sandler AG; Deputy Commissioner Tom Croteau, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Ben Hulbert, Houston County Development Authority; Dr. Ulrich Hornfeck, Board Member & CCO Sandler AG; Chairman Mark Byrd, Houston County Development Authority; Marian Fraley, Houston County Development Authority; Governor Nathan Deal, State of Georgia; First Lady Sandra Deal, State of Georgia; Bärbl Sandler, Chief Human Resources Officer Sandler AG; Dr. Christian Heinrich Sandler, President & CEO Sandler AG; Tobias Baumgaertel, President Sandler Nonwoven Corporation; Silke Baumgaertel; Vice Chairman Joe Brownlee, Houston County Development Authority; Angie Gheesling, Executive Director Houston County Development Authority; Dr. Joseph Richardson, Houston County Development Authority