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## PRESS RELEASE

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*For immediate release*

### ■ Sustainable innovation

## **RadiciGroup announces the development of the first revolutionary eco-friendly RadElast® spandex fibre using 100% "green" biopolymer.**

**RadiciSpandex Corp., a U.S. RadiciGroup company engaged in the production of RadElast® spandex, is developing the world's first eco-friendly elastane using a 100% renewably sourced material (biopolymer).**

RadiciSpandex Corp. is developing a whole new family of sustainable elastane fibres using biopolymer.

This innovative product line will be the world's first spandex consisting of 80% biomaterial made from a 100% renewable source (corn), as opposed to propylene, an oil derivative. Not only does the use of biopolymer help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, but the production process also emits fewer greenhouse gasses and uses less energy than petroleum-based processes. The new green RadiciGroup elastane fibre will ensure the highest environmental sustainability while providing excellent performance (greater stretch and high-speed spinning) and good quality.

"It's going to be a revolutionary innovation in our market," stated RadiciSpandex CEO **Marty Moran**. "By using a 100% renewably sourced raw material for the production of our spandex, we will develop a product with a reduced environmental footprint. The demand of the market at large, and particularly the personal care and textile sectors, which are our target markets, is increasingly leaning towards so-called "green" products that help protect the environment. This is the direction we are focusing our efforts on." The biopolymer used in RadiciGroup's new eco-friendly spandex ensures:

- Greater processability compared to chemically produced base materials (PTMEG).
- Enhanced finished product performance characteristics (higher productivity, better stretch, reduced deterioration under stress and decreased hysteresis effect).
- Improved cost competitiveness in the long term versus spandex products based upon traditional PTMEG.

"Reducing the environmental footprint of our products and processes and assisting our customers in their initiatives to achieve greater sustainability in their own activities are among our primary objectives," said **Maurizio Radici**, RadiciGroup Vice Chairman and COO. "There is growing proof that our new eco-friendly products made from bio raw materials can fully replace synthetic oil derivatives. Our Group has long worked towards making our businesses more sustainable – from chemicals to plastics and synthetic fibres– to ensure their competitiveness and innovative capacity. It is a strategy that drives our choices, an important factor that gives our enterprises added value."

"We are the first in the world to develop an environmentally friendly spandex product, a green elastane fibre that is going to enhance our present RadiciSpandex RadElast® product portfolio, as well as provide customers and consumers with a green alternative for all applications that require stretch fibres," Mr. Radici concluded.



The new eco-compatible spandex project aims to respond to the “green” commitment of the main players in the medical/personal care sector and to meet the growing demand for products made with eco-friendly base materials by renowned and established brands in the textile and quality apparel business. The new fibre will be produced in the United States and meets CAFTA, NAFTA and CBI standards.

For more information about the new eco-friendly spandex fibre:

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#### **About RadiciSpandex Corp. and RadiciGroup ...**

Based in Gastonia, NC, RadiciSpandex Corp. – a U.S. subsidiary of RadiciGroup – is engaged in the production and sale of RadElast® spandex fibre [www.radelast.com](http://www.radelast.com). RadiciGroup is one of the leading chemicals multinationals, a diversified group specializing in chemicals, plastics and synthetic fibres. Among the Group’s key strengths is the synergistic vertical integration of its nylon production chain. RadiciGroup has total control over its production — from chemical intermediates, such as adipic acid and polyamide 6 and 66, to engineering plastics and synthetic yarn. The Group’s production and sales units are located in Italy and the rest of Europe, in Asia, North America and South America; its 2010 consolidated sales revenue was EUR 1.162 billion. RadiciGroup products are exported all over the world and are widely used in applications such as apparel, sports, furnishings, automotive, electrical/electronics and household appliances\_ [www.radicigroup.com](http://www.radicigroup.com)

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