



# CORPORATE PRESS RELEASE

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## The RadiciGroup “team” visits Nissan

**RadiciGroup's integrated offer for the automotive sector presented to the technicians of Nissan Technical Centre Europe. Innovation, sustainability and eco design the keywords for an increasingly demanding and constantly evolving car market.**

The **RadiciGroup** “team” met for the first time last December 1 with the technicians of carmaker **Nissan**, at the **Technical Centre Europe** in Cranfield (UK).

**RadiciGroup** presented an **integrated offer** - from engineering plastics to synthetic fibres and nonwovens - to a major automotive company always looking for new high performance products with excellent mechanical properties.

In the morning, the **RadiciGroup Performance Plastics Business Area** introduced the latest innovations in PA6, PA6.6, PA6.10 and PA6.12 engineering plastics, polyamides for high temperature applications and PPAs for various engine components. Thanks to its physical-mechanical and structural characteristics, polyamide is replacing metal in the automotive industry; in the face of new auto industry trends, such as smaller and more powerful engines, lower CO<sub>2</sub> limits and reduced underhood space, PPAs respond with high thermal resistance, ease of processing and competitive pricing.

RadiciGroup has also long been involved in engineering plastics manufactured using biopolymers derived from renewable raw materials such as Radilon® D based on PA 6.10, inherently sustainable products.

**Erico Spini, RadiciGroup Performance Plastics Marketing & Application Development Director for Europe** stressed that, *«thanks to its know-how in the field of polyamide engineering plastics and synergistic collaboration with the RadiciGroup chemical area, the Performance Plastics Business Area can now offer concrete answers to the global market as far as innovation, customization, flexibility and performance»*.

Just recently, at the K fair in Dusseldorf, RadiciGroup Performance Plastics introduced a new Radilon® range product (engineering thermoplastics based on polyamide), the RADILON® AESTUS T, which provides not only excellent resistance to high temperatures, but also high hydrolysis resistance for components in contact with engine cooling liquids (thermostat housing, inlet/outlet pipes, etc.). Versions suitable for use in the fuel system (petrol connectors) and flame-resistant versions have also been developed.

This is the latest innovation developed by the RadiciGroup Performance Plastics Research & Development laboratories; included in the special product families are polymers that offer improved resistance in **high temperature** conditions (up to 230 degrees for Radilon® XTreme), reinforced materials for **metal replacement** and **long chain polyamides**.

One of RadiciGroup Performance Plastics' main strengths is its global structure, a network of production and sales units in Italy and elsewhere in Europe, North and South America and Asia, which allows it to meet all customer demands with comprehensive, innovative and sustainable offers. Thanks to the expertise developed in assessing the environmental impact of products and processes, **sustainability** is documented throughout the production chain with **EPD** (Environmental Product Declaration) certified methodology.

In the afternoon, the Nissan supplier day was dedicated to RadiciGroup's world of synthetic fibres: from polyamide 6, 6.6 and 6.10 to polyester yarns, high tenacity BCF yarns and spunbond nonwovens. These materials ensure high performance in the automotive sector as well, especially as regards car interiors.

Similarly to its Performance Plastics business area, the Group's commitment to expanding its portfolio of fibres made with eco-friendly processes or from bio sources is growing, from the PA 6.10 **Radilon®** textile yarn to the **dorix®** staple fibre, obtained through biopolymers derived from renewable resources not competing with food production (64% obtained from sebacic acid derived from castor oil plant seeds).

The **Synthetic Fibres & Non Wovens Business Area** provides the automotive market with a great many products and numerous opportunities to work together with our customers and develop tailor-made solutions for unique applications.

**Radifloor®** yarns (BCF PA 6 and PA 6.6) or the **dorix®** staple fibre (polyamide staple fibre 6 and 6.10 provided both raw and dyed in various colours) are for example employed in producing car mats featuring abrasion resistance, uniformity, resiliency and a wide range of colours.

During the meeting at Nissan, **Piero Saragat**, Automotive Product Manager of RadiciGroup Performance Yarn, focused on the new "carpeting" frontier, «*One of RadiciGroup's current*

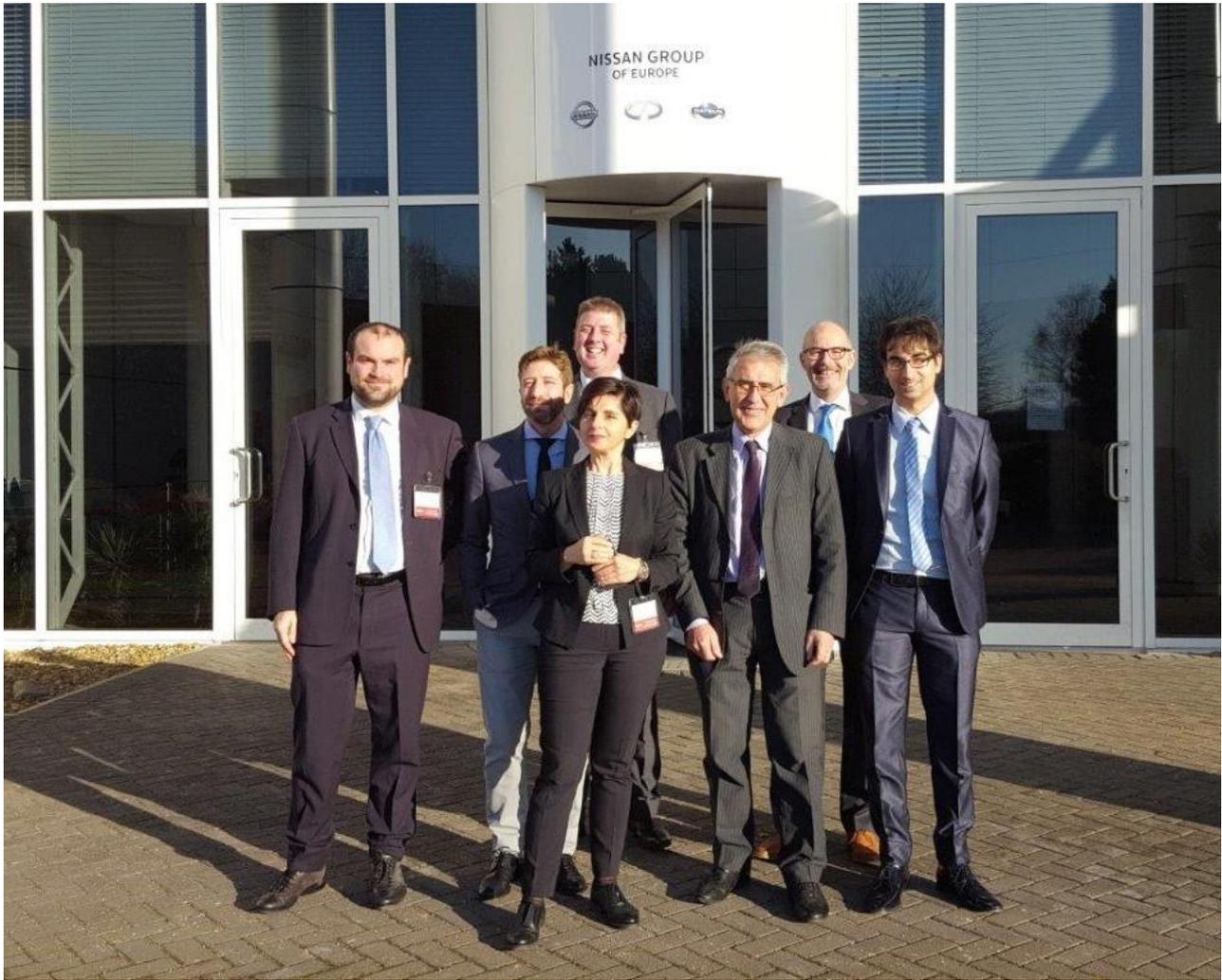
*challenges is developing yarns for high-quality car carpets and floor mats with greater resistance, performance and lightness».*

The high-tenacity 6.6 polyamide yarns by **Raditeck®** are ideal for the production of reinforcing plies and increased tire durability and performance; as they are very resistant to strong and immediate pressure, they are also used for airbags.

With regard to the continuous filament polyester threads by Radyarn® and Starlight® (also in the r-Radyarn® and r-Starlight® versions, derived from post-consumer recycled polymers), they are used for luggage and passenger compartment covers and, thanks to one of the most comprehensive ranges in Europe and a personalized service, RadiciGroup can meet every customer's request. **Raffaella Angelone**, Automotive Sales Manager of RadiciGroup Comfort Fibres said that, *«The interior of a car is the space that welcomes passengers and should therefore be comfortable and safe. With our yarns and excellent know-how in the polyester industry, we can offer innovative and flexible solutions for specialized markets, while paying close attention to the environmental impact of our products».*

Another RadiciGroup product widely used in the automotive sector is Dylar®, a spunbond non woven polypropylene with high technical performance available in various weights (12 to 150 gr/sqm), an ideal solution for inner seat and coil covers and airbag casings. Thanks to its resistance to moisture, temperature variations and UV rays, it is also applied in the insulation acoustics inside the car. A wide range of available colours, resistance, antistatic and flame retardant properties make the Dylar® nonwoven fabric ideal as well for the production of external protective sheeting.

The meeting with Nissan provided an opportunity for dialogue and discussion between those who produce the materials and those who use them, gathering together some actors of the automotive supply chain to understand needs and propose solutions, with a focus on low environmental impact products. RadiciGroup, which has been moving in this direction for some time and certifies its products and processes, is therefore the ideal upstream provider for a market based on **eco design**: thinking of the materials according to their post-consumer end-of-life cycle in order to achieve what the European Union proposes in terms of **circular economy**. The Heramid® range polymers or the r-Radyarn® and r-Starlight® polyester textile threads produced by RadiciGroup, for example, come from recycled and selected raw materials, so as to offer excellent performance with minimal environmental impact.



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**RADICIGROUP** - With 2,985 employees, sales revenue of EUR 1,011 million, and a network of production and sales sites located in Europe, North America, South America and Asia, RadiciGroup is one of the world's leading producers of a wide range of chemical intermediates, polyamide polymers, engineering plastics, synthetic fibres and nonwovens. These products are the result of the Group's outstanding chemical know-how and are used in a variety of industrial sectors such as: AUTOMOTIVE – ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS – CONSUMER GOODS – APPAREL – FURNISHINGS – CONSTRUCTION – HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES – SPORT. With its business areas - **Specialty Chemicals, Performance Plastics and Synthetic Fibres & Nonwovens** (Performance Yarn, Comfort Fibres and Extrusion Yarn), RadiciGroup is part of a larger industrial group that also includes textile machinery (ITEMA), energy (GEOGREEN) and hotel businesses (SAN MARCO).

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