



ANNOUNCEMENT

Hail & Cotton, Inc. and CdF International Group are pleased to confirm that they have successfully completed the previously announced merger of their respective businesses. The combined business will operate under the name of Hail & Cotton International Group and Warren L. Corbin will assume the position of President. The senior executive team will consist of the following persons:

- Tom Wilks, Executive VP North America Operations: Tom will oversee the production and sales activities for all tobacco types produced in North America. All USA and Canada based sales and operations staff will report to Tom.
- Gustav Stangl, Executive VP International Operations: Gustav will oversee all dark tobacco operating units outside North America. Gustav will relocate to the Group's head office in Springfield, TN USA. All Country Managers outside North America will report to Gustav.
- Paul Taberer, Executive VP Sales & New Business Development: Paul will oversee the Group's sales activities for all tobacco types and origins outside North America. Assisting Paul will be Onno Molenaar for dark tobaccos and Grant Readings for cigarette and other types. Paul, Onno and Grant will continue to be based in the Netherlands office.
- Rod Roe, Chief Financial Officer: Rod will oversee all finance and accounting functions from the Group's head office.

Warren Corbin said "as a result of this merger, Hail & Cotton International Group becomes one of the world's most diverse leaf tobacco suppliers to manufacturers of all consumer tobacco products. We have developed a truly global footprint and we look forward to further strengthening our supply relationships with our valued customers. The company is committed to continuing its long tradition of providing the highest quality products and services as evidenced by our recent accreditation of ISO9001-2008 for all USA operations".

For more information please contact your sales representative or any member of senior management at the following numbers:

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