

ARMOR GROUP unveils its new 'smart films' activity

Drawing on its industrial know-how in formulation, printing and high-precision coating, this year, 2024, ARMOR GROUP has created a new subsidiary, ARMOR SMART FILMS, devoted to printing and coating complex active materials. The team and manufacturing equipment have been set up and have already started to design and produce these smart components for key sectors such as MedTech, GreenTech and information and communication technology.

ARMOR SMART FILMS, ARMOR GROUP's new subsidiary

ARMOR GROUP has stepped up the introduction of its smart films activity, which was being developed 'under wraps' these last few years, with the launch of its new ARMOR SMART FILMS subsidiary at the beginning of this year. This new business, which already has its own dedicated team, can take advantage of existing speciality coating and screen-printing equipment, whilst planning to invest in new resources over the coming years.

A wide range of sectors, such as MedTech (medical technology firms), GreenTech (environmental and energy transition firms) and information and communication technology are concerned by the creation and production of smart films. The outlook for industrial and business development is highly-promising, with applications linked to motion detectors, transducers, membranes for energy storage and production, desalination, capturing carbon and producing hydrogen using electrolysis. The scope of focus is extensive and includes piezoelectric films, films for energy production and storage, printed electronics, the formulation of complex materials and smart inks.

"The smart materials market can expect a CAGR growth rate of 7.1% over the 2023-2030 period, with a projected market size of 115.4 billion dollars by 2030¹. ARMOR SMART FILMS is an emerging business, but one that is perfectly tailored to our specialized know-how in coating fine layers onto thin film. We believe it has great potential. We expect to record turnover of around €50M within 5 to 10 years, and create dozens of jobs in the process" states Hubert de Boisredon, ARMOR GROUP Chairman and CEO.

Bespoke smart film creation and production

A "smart" material is a material designed to be sensitive, tailorable and scalable. The ramping up of the development of this technology, which appeared in the 1980s², has only just begun, thanks to advances in applications related to the Internet of Things (IoT) and human/machine interfaces, as well as the availability of new materials. In another field, ion-selective membranes are playing a role in the development of new renewable, sustainable energy industries, for example, in the hydrogen sector. To support these state-of-the-art innovations, ARMOR SMART FILMS delivers three levels of complementary services: R&D, prototyping and large-scale production. As well as drawing on ARMOR GROUP's historic roll-to-roll coating know-how, the industrial company also leverages its sheet-to-sheet printing and processes, through flat or rotary screen-printing.

"What inspires us with this new business is to forge strong partnerships with our customers by providing them with our formulation and coating know-how for their projects and their innovations" states Christophe Derennes, Industrial Director of ARMOR SMART FILMS.

"The smart films that we are co-creating with our customers can be found everywhere, in motion detectors, soles of footwear and even hydrogen power plants. There's no limit to what's possible." adds Pierre Guichard, Head of R&D, Industrial Operations.

¹ Source: RI Global Insights.

² <https://www.engineerlive.com/content/what-smart-material>

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ARMOR GROUP

WE MANUFACTURE VITAL COMPONENTS

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"The age of smart materials is only just beginning. By creating this new subsidiary, we're ensuring we've got the means to succeed. We're really motivated by the idea of focusing ARMOR GROUP's industrial leadership on challenges that society faces such as the energy transition, protecting the environment and health." concludes Hubert de Boisredon.

About ARMOR GROUP

ARMOR GROUP is a responsible, committed player promoting social innovation. The community of women and men that make up this global industrial Group applies its know-how and expertise to manufacturing and creating innovative vital components. Formulation (inks, filaments, etc.), high-precision coating and cutting on thin film as well as the circular economy are examples of the types of expertise that the Group leverages to address social challenges. Since May 2022, the Group has been 100% owned by the management team and 378 employees-shareholders. The Group is global leader in designing and producing thermal transfer ribbons for printing variable traceability data on labels and flexible packaging (ARMOR-IIMAK). ARMOR GROUP, a front-line European player for innovative, sustainable consumables and inks as well as print services (Altkin), is also a pioneer in developing and producing state-of-the-art materials like coated collectors for electric batteries (ARMOR BATTERY FILMS), components and filaments for additive manufacturing (KIMYA), smart films (ARMOR SMART FILMS) and organic solar film rolls. ARMOR GROUP is established worldwide and totals around 2,500 employees spread over some twenty countries across four continents. The Group recorded revenue of €447M in 2022. It invests €50M every year in industrial equipment and R&D. www.armor-group.com



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