

Press Release

Etex opens new plasterboard factory in Lima, Peru First of four greenfield factories in 2015

Brussels, 22 April 2015 — **On 17 April, Etex officially opened its new plasterboard plant on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. The international building materials group invested 22 million euro in the factory for Eternit Peru, the construction of which began in May 2014. The inauguration coincides with Eternit Peru's 75th anniversary.**

Building on a strong local presence

Eternit Peru has been operating in Lima, the capital of Peru, since 1940. In 1998, the company began commercialising plasterboards, importing them from Chile and Colombia. Thanks to an extensive distribution network, Eternit has been generating growth rates ever since, triggering to manufacture plasterboards locally.

Totalling 22 million euro in investment, this factory will produce 12 million square metres of Gyplac plasterboards, every year. Several Peruvian officials attended the inauguration: Magali Silva, Minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism, Marco Goytizolo, government representative and Eveling Feliciano, Mayor of San Antonio de Huarochiri. Michel Dewez, the Belgian Ambassador to Peru, was present as well.

Tapping into a high-potential market

In 1998, Eternit Peru also launched lightweight or dry construction solutions on the Peruvian market. This alternative building method with gypsum plasterboards and fibre cement boards rules out the need for wet trades such as mortar.

Along with its Superboard fibre cement flat sheets, Eternit Peru now ensures the local production of the two main components for dry construction solutions. This enables Etex to fully capitalise on the promising Peruvian market.

To put this into perspective: about 11 million m² of gypsum plasterboards are sold in Peru every year. In addition, the Peruvian market is growing at an annual rate of 21% and the country continues to post economic growth. As a result, Peru's construction sector is flourishing, both for residential and non-residential building projects.

A strategic location near Lima

The new plasterboard production site was built at a strategic crossroads just 39 km from Lima. It covers 20 ha at the Huachipa Este industrial estate. From there, it is easy to access Lima's thriving building market as well as important distribution centres in North and South Peru. Other key locations in Peru and export markets are within manageable reach, too.

Not only does this allow Etex to supply the local market in the most efficient way. "The new plasterboard factory in Peru also enables us to expand our dry construction offering across Latin America, prepping our companies for the future", comments Paul Van Oyen, CEO of Etex. "It is also the first of four greenfields that we will be opening this year in Latin America, Europe and Asia."

About Etex

Etex is a Belgian industrial group that specialises in manufacturing and marketing building materials. Its four core businesses are: cladding and building boards in fibre cement and plaster, roofing materials, passive fire protection and high performance insulation, and ceramic floor and wall tiles. In Belgium, apart from its headquarters, Etex has three production sites and two R&D centres.

With about 17,000 employees operating on 118 production sites in 43 countries and with annual sales of about 3 billion euro, Etex is an international player in sustainable building materials and solutions. For more information: www.etexgroup.com.

More information

Regine Van Tomme

Corporate Communications Director

Tel. + 32 2 778 12 11 or +32 2 778 12 84