**Stora Enso divests Kotka mills**

Stora Enso has signed an agreement to sell its integrated mills at Kotka in southern Finland and its laminating paper operations in Malaysia to private equity firm OpenGate Capital.

The total consideration including earn-out is up to 24 million Euros. Stora Enso decided to divest Kotka mills already in 2007, but the decision was withdrawn a year later, due to the turmoil in the global financial situation.

The divestment will reduce Stora Enso’s annual production capacity by 180,000 tons of machine-finished coated paper (MFC), 200,000 tons of laminating paper, 40,000 tons of Imprex products, and 230,000 cubic meters of sawnwood. The 570 employees affected, including 480 working at Kotka, 50 at Taijonkoski and 40 in Malaysia, will transfer to the service of the new owner. Stora Enso and OpenGate Capital will make an agreement about wood supply as part of the divestment.

OpenGate Capital is a private equity firm that acquires controlling interests in businesses with solid fundamentals that exhibit opportunities for operational improvements and growth. Established in 2005, OpenGate Capital has its headquarters in Los Angeles and a principal office in Paris.

**New reserve boiler for Mänttä mill**

Mänttä Energia, an energy company, partly owned by Metsä Tissue, is investing 3.1 million Euros in a 50 megawatt reserve boiler. The boiler will secure stable energy supply for Metsä Tissue’s mill in Mänttä.

The boiler will be transferred from M-real’s Lielaiti mill to replace Mänttä Energia’s idle coal-burning reserve boiler in Mänttä. This replacement will ensure safe and undisturbed supply of heat and electricity to Metsä Tissue’s Mänttä mill, which consumes approximately 84 percent of the heat and 100 percent of the energy produced annually by Mänttä Energia.

Work to transfer the boiler from Lielaiti to Mänttä began in April. The system will be in place in October.

**Äänekoski pulp mill celebrates 25 years**

Metsä Botnia Åänekoski pulp mill celebrated its 25th anniversary in the middle of April. From its start, the mill has produced over ten million tons of pulp, of which one half is softwood pulp and the other half birch pulp.

Today, the production of birch pulp amounts to approximately 80 percent.

The annual capacity of the mill is presently 500,000 tons. Metsä Botnia Åänekoski mill has around 200 employees.