

This sector represents around a quarter of the group's sales.

Sales in the segment grew by 4% in the first half of the year on a like-for-like basis but the group anticipates sales will be flat for the year as a whole due to the reduction in Q3.

The group's civil engineering joint venture in Saudi Arabia has continued to suffer a slower than expected order intake due to a delay in obtaining a key product certification. A loss of at least £1m is now anticipated for 2014. As a result, overall full year profits are expected to decline slightly to £25.3m, compared to last year's £26.5m.

## Eastman adds flat microfibre to Cyphrex range

Eastman has added a flat PET fibre to the Cyphrex range of microfibres for the production of wetlaid nonwovens and speciality papers, mainly targeting filtration applications. The new fibre is less than 0.4 denier in size, and can be used to make uniform, light yet strong materials that boast improved processability compared with other synthetic microfibres.

"In just over a year since launching, we have begun to build a complementary set of Cyphrex microfibres for wetlaid nonwovens manufacturers," said Fred Dulin, director of the microfibres platform at Eastman. "By offering round and flat fibres — in addition to the various sizes of Cyphrex — nonwovens producers can more precisely manufacture media to fit their customers' needs, giving them an advantage in formulation capability."

The company has reported impressive tensile, tear and burst strength within a very lightweight nonwoven sheet, as well as good green strength. The fibres can also improve strength-to-weight ratio and dimensional stability in some applications.

The microfibres have been engineered as a drop-in solution that can be processed on standard wetlaid and papermaking equipment. They can be also incorporated with a broad range of fibres and feature a consistent cross section, which means nonwoven manufacturers can fine-tune their media formulations to provide the desired functionality.

At the launch of the Cyphrex range last year, Eastman executives suggested the portfolio would be increased to include microfibres with different sizes, shapes and materials. The range

currently comprises a 2.5 micron fibre, a 4.5 micron fibre and the new fibre with a flat cross section.

"As with the larger, 4.5-micron fibre added to the Eastman Cyphrex microfibres portfolio earlier this year, the flat PET fibre is part of our ongoing effort to create and give our customers innovative microfibres that fit their specific needs," explained Dulin. "This is the latest example of how Cyphrex can keep creating new possibilities for wetlaid nonwovens manufacturers."

## Kimberly-Clark wipes receive aviation certification

Kimberly-Clark's aviation wipes have been qualified and listed on Aerospace Material Specification AMS 3819C and Boeing Material Specification BMS 15-5G.

The cleaning wipes have been specifically engineered to perform in all areas of Original Equipment Manufacturing (OEM) and Maintenance Repair Operations (MRO). The Kimtech wipes are available in three categories: surface preparation wipes, cleaning wipes and a wet wipe system.

The company has also launched the Kimtech Large Surface Wiping Applicator, which was developed to clean and prepare large contoured areas and elevated assemblies. The use of the applicator has been found to increase productivity by 56%, eliminating over-processing wasted time and motion, according to the Human Factors Design Standard by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The wiping applicator uses aerospace wipes mounted on a flexible applicator head designed to hug contoured areas for more efficient cleaning with better control, says Kimberly-Clark.

"Aviation industry workers must have the best wiping tools available to make sure every job is done right the first time," said Marianne Santangelo, aerospace target market leader for Kimberly-Clark Professional. "Our goal is to help manufacturers uncover hidden opportunities to improve safety and productivity to help solve the customers' needs. We've seen workers in unnatural, unsafe positions trying to reach areas they need to prep. In addition, we've observed unsafe adaptation of tools, such as tying rags to mop heads, in order to prep hard to reach areas."



The Kimtech wipes for aviation applications