

SOFIDEL CONTINUES TO GROW IN THE USA: THE GROUP INVESTS \$185 MILLION TO EXPAND THE CIRCLEVILLE PLANT (OH)

The factory will reach a production capacity of over 200,000 metric tons per year (+50%) thanks to a new Valmet paper mill machine, making it the Group's most important production site worldwide.

Porcari (LU), 13 September 2023 – To meet the growing demand in the US market, the Sofidel tissue paper group, well-known in Italy and Europe for its Regina brand, is further strengthening its production capacity with a **\$185 million investment in its integrated plant in Circleville, Ohio.**

The project involves the **construction of a new building that will house the new Valmet DCT 200** paper mill machine, which will start operation in Q3 2025 with a production capacity of 70,000 metric tons per year.

The Circleville plant, which is already home to two paper mill machines Valmet Advantage NTTs, will reach a **total production capacity of over 200,000 metric tons per year (+50%) and become Sofidel's most important production site globally.**

“Last year, we celebrated our first ten years on the U.S. market: ten years of development and growth. Thanks in part to the close-knit and capable U.S. team and our excellent relationships with institutions, from the state of Ohio to the local communities that have always supported us, we open our second decade of operations in the United States with this new investment in the Circleville plant. Today Sofidel America has production sites in six states and this operation will enable us to further meet the growing demand from our customers and continue to fuel our growth in this country,” said **Luigi Lazzareschi, Sofidel CEO.**

The Ohio plant was **Sofidel's first greenfield investment in the United States.** To date, it is the Group's most modern and sustainable plant. Located on a 280-acre (110-hectare) site, the plant sits in an area rich in water, gas, and electricity resources, close to a strategic logistics hub for distribution operators, with intermodal transport systems and major urban centers within a few hundred miles.

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Sofidel is a WWF Climate Savers member

Sofidel Group

The Sofidel Group is one of the leading manufacturers of paper for hygienic and domestic use worldwide. Established in 1966, the Group has subsidiaries in 13 countries – Italy, Spain, the UK, Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Romania and the USA – with more than 6,500 employees, net sales of 2,801 million Euros (2022) and a production capacity of over one million tonnes per year (1,440,000 tonnes in 2022). “Regina”, its most well-known brand, is present on almost all the reference markets. Other brands include: Sopalin, Le Trèfle, Hakle, Softis, Nalys, Cosynel, KittenSoft, Lycke, Nicky, Papernet. A member of the UN Global Compact and the international WWF Climate Savers programme, the Sofidel Group considers sustainability a strategic factor with regards to growth and is committed to reducing its impact on natural capital and maximising social benefits, setting as objective the creation of shared added value for all stakeholders. Sofidel's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets to 2030 have been approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as consistent with reductions required to keep warming to well-below 2°C, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

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Sofidel America

Sofidel America is a subsidiary of the Sofidel Group. It was established in 2012 through the acquisition of the Cellynne tissue company which was founded in 1988 with one integrated plant in Haines City (Florida) and two converting plants in Green Bay (Wisconsin) and Henderson (Nevada) – the latter moved to Las Vegas in 2018. Sofidel America is now active in seven States – the original three already listed, as well as Oklahoma (Inola), Mississippi (Hattiesburg), Ohio (Circleville) and Pennsylvania (Horsham) where the company has its American corporate office. In 2022 the US market accounted for 26.7% of Sofidel's revenues.

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