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ITEMA PRESS RELEASE

Itema Strengthens North America Sales Team; Hires Steve Brown as Sales Manager

COLZATE (Italy) and Spartanburg, S.C. (USA) – Itema announces a new senior appointment at their wholly owned subsidiary Itema America Inc., with the addition of Mr. Steve Brown, formerly of Picanol of America, as Sales Manager. Steve joins the existing sales organization with the task to penetrate new markets and customer opportunities to increase the global weaving manufacturer’s competitive position in the North American market.

Scott Malcolm, President of Itema America Inc. welcomed Steve by saying: “Steve has a wealth of market knowledge and experience and is extraordinarily prepared to take on this new challenge in his career. I am convinced he is the right person to join the Itema TEAM and look forward to the new opportunities he will bring to the table.”

Fulvio Carlo Toma, Group Sales & Marketing Director of Itema, also extended a warm welcome to Steve by saying “I am delighted Steve is joining Itema at this crucial time in our Company’s history. We are building on the exciting momentum of the new & innovative Air-Jet portfolio launched at ITMA ASIA in Shanghai as well as capitalizing on the overwhelming success of the rapier R9500 – our absolute best seller worldwide and the unique projectile P7300HP.”

Mr. Brown said: “I am excited by the opportunity to join Itema and very impressed by the Company’s vision, product portfolio and growth plans. I am also looking forward to working with Itema’s dynamic sales organization and making my contribution from the get-go.”

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Notes to Editors:

About Itema

Itema is a leading global provider of advanced weaving solutions, including best-in-class weaving machines, spare parts and integrated services. The Company is the only manufacturer in the world to provide the top three weft insertion technologies: rapier, air jet and projectile, with an ample product portfolio and a commitment to continuous innovation and technological advancement of its weaving machines. The Company is present in the North American market with the 100% owned subsidiary, Itema America Inc., dedicated to sales of textile machinery, spare parts and repair and training services. Itema America Inc. is located in Spartanburg, S.C. For more information about Itema, please visit www.itemagroup.com and www.itemausa.com.

About Steve Brown



Mr Steve Brown, an experienced and seasoned professional with a solid track record spanning more than 35 years in the textile industry, joins ITEMA America Inc. as the new North America Sales Manager. Steve brings his knowledge and enthusiasm to help further strengthen the North American market presence of Itema, the Italian privately held multinational rapidly becoming one of the leading producers and suppliers of advanced weaving machines, spare parts and services.

Steve started his textile career in 1967 at Cannon Mills as a weaver working part-time while attending High School. After High School, Steve graduated from the Wingate College in 1972 and joined the United States Navy from 1973 to 1977, serving on board the USS Virginia (CGN-38) and USS Columbus (CG-12). After graduating from the Textile Technology Center at the Gaston College in 1979, Steve joined the Ruti Corporation as a service engineer working on the air jet weaving machines. In 1983 Steve Brown joined the Springs Mills and worked in the Ft. Mill Executive Office in the Facilities Planning Department as a Project Engineer for all weaving projects. In 1990 Steve went to work for Picanol where he worked as the USA and Canada sales manager for air jet and rapier until joining Itema in June 2014.

Despite a full professional life, Steve finds time to volunteer as a South Carolina High School Athletic Association District 1 Basketball Official, as well as Deacon and Youth Sunday School teacher in the local community. Steve is happily married and has one daughter. He and his family live in Powdersville, S.C.