



PRESS RELEASE

Ieper, 22 September 2014

## **PICANOL TRAINING CENTER AND TEST AREA IN IEPER INAUGURATED BY MINISTER-PRESIDENT GEERT BOURGEOIS**

**Picanol inaugurated its new training center and new test and shipping area in Ieper. The official inauguration took place in the presence of Mr. Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders. Since improving the competitiveness through further productivity and quality improvements and targeted investments is a top priority, an investment program for an amount of 17.5 million euros in Ieper was approved in 2013. This investment plan includes a new training center, a new test and shipping area for weaving machines and the purchase of several production machines.**

### **Training takes your talent further**

Well trained employees are important for optimum machine and plant performance. The weaving industry is no exception: the quality of the fabric and the performance of the machine are determined not only by the input materials and the machine itself, but also to a large extent by the way the materials and the machine are handled. Picanol naturally attaches the highest importance to good training, and so last year it was decided to invest in a state-of-the-art training center. With three fully equipped training rooms (each with two weaving machines, cut models, mini-workshop etc.) covering a total area of 270 m<sup>2</sup>, the new training center allows Picanol to train the technicians of its worldwide customers on its weaving machines under optimal conditions. The new training center measures about 600 m<sup>2</sup> and also houses a guest center and several meeting rooms.

### **Focus on quality**

The new test area replaces the old one and is equipped with 24 test stations. All weaving machines leaving the assembly lines are mechanically and electronically tested in the new test area before they go to the customers, enabling Picanol to offer an even higher quality and reliability. After all, quality is essential and therefore the highest priority of Picanol. Following testing and final check, the machines are put on a moving carpet, where accessories are added and packaging of the machines is done. After the packaging line, the machines are placed in the buffer zone awaiting shipment. Since the summer of 2014, the shipping area has been housed in a new space with two loading docks and one loading space. Every day, trucks with containers depart from this area to take Picanol weaving machines to all corners of the world.

The inauguration of the new training center and test zone marks a new milestone for Picanol in Ieper.

### **About the Picanol Group**

*The Picanol Group is an international, customer-oriented group specialized in the development, production and sale of weaving machines, engineered casting solutions and customized controllers. Through its division Weaving Machines (Picanol), it develops, manufactures and sells high-tech weaving machines based on air (airjet) or rapier technology. Picanol supplies weaving machines to weaving mills worldwide, and also offers its customers such products and services as weaving accessories, training, upgrade kits and spare parts. For more than 75 years, Picanol has played a pioneering role in the industry worldwide, and is one of the current world leaders in weaving machine production. The division Industries covers all other activities of the group: Proferro comprises the foundry and the group's machining activities. It produces cast iron parts for e.g. compressors, agricultural machinery, and Picanol weaving machines. Through PsiControl, the group specializes in the design, development, manufacturing and support of a.o. controllers for various industries. Melotte develops and produces innovative product solutions using Direct Digital Manufacturing (DDM) and Near-to-Net-Shape Manufacturing (NNSM) technologies.*

*In addition to the headquarters in Ieper (Belgium), the Picanol Group has production facilities in Asia and Europe, linked to its own worldwide sales and service network. In 2013, the Picanol Group realized a consolidated turnover of 559.9 million euros. The Picanol Group employs some 2,000 employees worldwide and is listed on NYSE Euronext Brussels (PIC). The Picanol Group was founded in 1936 and celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2011.*

**For more information please contact Mr. Erwin Devloo, +32 057 222 090 or e-mail:**

**[edv@picanol.be](mailto:edv@picanol.be)**