

A new era in sustainable plant-based leather tanning

In a landmark move for the leather industry, **Silvateam**, a global leader in the production of natural tannins, is the new majority owner of wet-green GmbH, pioneer of the patented wet-green technology for Olivenleder, after acquiring the German company from MB Holding. This strategic alliance represents a significant evolution in the segment of sustainable tanning technologies.

Founded in 1854 in Mondovì, Silvateam has long been at the forefront of the global leather industry. As a family-owned enterprise, it has carved out a reputation as a leading manufacturer of tannins and natural ingredients. These products find widespread use in diverse sectors, including leather, animal nutrition, food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

Key to the company's ethos is its unwavering commitment to sustainability, which finds a strategic fit in the partnership with Olivenleder. The cooperation strengthens Silvateam's ambition for international growth and best sustainable practices and sends a clear signal to the industry: the future lies in eco-conscious, plant-based solutions.



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Eco-conscious change

Silvateam has been driving change in the leather industry with the launch of its groundbreaking Ecotan technology, introduced in 2020 into the marketplace. Using natural ingredients and human-made biopolymers for tanning, Ecotan has successfully steered the industry away from traditional metal-based methods towards more environmentally friendly, plant-based tanning systems.

The integration of Olivenleder into Silvateam's portfolio, significantly bolsters the company's sustainable offerings, thus creating the broadest programme of green solutions available to tanners and brands. Olivenleder is considered a pioneer among wet-green's solutions, known for its wet-green OBE, a 100% biobased, metal- and synthetic-free pre-tanning agent derived from olive leaf

extract. This is the first technology allowing to produce vegetable-tanned nappa leather, extremely soft and rapid to produce.

Thanks to Silvateam's core capabilities in the production of plant-based extracts and the related supply chain, Olivenleder tanning agent manufacture will be streamlined in the Italy-based plant for the required scaling up in the leather-making process.

Synergistic effort

The strategic collaboration brings a significant advantage to the market: the combined use of Ecotan and Olivenleder will enable brands to build strong, green credentials by having access to both certification labels. This initiative is setting the most advanced benchmark for environmental responsibility and best practices in the leather industry. The

bottom line benefits will impact a wide array of sectors, including automotive, marine, aircraft, fashion and design.

Antonio Battaglia, business unit leather director at Silvateam, states: "This partnership is a turning point for the entire industry. We are setting new standards and demonstrating that sustainable tanning technologies are not only feasible but also the way forward. Olivenleder added to Silvateam full range of wet-end products will allow an unprecedented ability to innovate in sustainable leather technology."

Ecotan, known for its low environmental footprint and superior quality, offers a range of eco-friendly tanning methods, including high-performance plant-based tanning and 100% metal-free and GTA-free wet-white

tanning. New in the range is Ecotan Advanced, a hybrid system that integrates a 100% biobased pretannage made with an olive extract. Ecotan is the first biocircular leather technology, making a recyclable, healthy and nature-inspired leather tanning possible. wet-green OBE, meeting the requirements for a biocircular leather, perfectly complements the Ecotan technology, together establishing a new comprehensive standard for the leather industry.

In joining forces, Silvateam and wet-green are pioneering a groundbreaking era in the leather industry, embodying the union of sustainability and innovation. This alliance marks a definitive stride towards a more eco-friendly and socially responsible approach to leather manufacturing. ●

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