



# Press release

investor relations

## Royal Ten Cate presents outline of Twente Material Valley

Following the ongoing debate about compensation to the region of Twente for the closure of the Twente Airbase, a broadly-based management agreement has been reached. This is the result of the *Inzet Twente* (Twente Objective), which was presented to national government in March, with the intention of obtaining compensation for the loss of jobs.

Royal Ten Cate, as one of the largest employers within the region, intends to make a constructive contribution to future competitiveness, based on the strong elements that are already present within the regional economy. For this purpose, a letter has been sent to important core players in the region, in which are set out the basic principles of the **Material Valley** plan, with the aim of creating both a political and an organizational support base.

In the directive group Triangle, consisting of representatives of business and industry, knowledge institutions and regional authorities, the “**Triangle Vision**” has been developed, which relates to innovation in the east of the Netherlands. Its objective is to strengthen the three existing areas of expertise in Overijssel: food, health and technology.

Royal Ten Cate is of the opinion that in the field of technology more ambition relating to materials technology is required. To this end, an effective link between business and industry and research, in particular the University of Twente, is necessary especially in the interaction between materials research (nanotechnology) and social applications in health, sports and safety. Ongoing cooperation between business and industry and research can form the basis of a cluster of innovative new companies in Twente.

Royal Ten Cate is a technologically-driven company which manufactures functional materials on the basis of a symbiosis of textile technology and chemical process technology. Its products meet specific user demands and are used internationally, mainly in the areas of safety and protection, environmental and infrastructural applications, sports and aerospace. Ten Cate works very closely in this with knowledge institutions, research institutes and business partners. Ten Cate intends to further expand this concept and to achieve more cooperation with regional partners, in order to acquire an internationally recognized position in materials technology in the Netherlands.

The **Material Valley** plan is intended to provide an impulse and make a contribution to solving the problem areas that had previously been identified by the Ministry of

Economic Affairs. This plan can be seen as partially giving substance to the technology component within the **Triangle Vision**. The priorities of the plan are:

- To strengthen cooperation between knowledge institutions and companies
- To strengthen the interaction between new materials and socially relevant applications
- To strengthen the demand side in the innovation process (including sports, health, public safety, sustainable building, mobility, etc.)
- To strengthen new companies, those that restart, and spin-offs.

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