

## Press release

marketing communications

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### Dutch space pouches travel with André Kuipers to International Space Station

On Wednesday, 21 December 2011 a set of Dutch space pouches will travel into space with the Dutch ESA astronaut André Kuipers to the International Space Station. Schonenburg Space Engineering bv in Noordwijk (NL) and TenCate Protective Fabrics in Nijverdal have arranged for the optimal transport and double protection of the sensitive, scientific hardware to be used by André Kuipers.

TenCate Protective Fabrics supplied the TenCate Tecashield® inherently heat- and flame-resistant fabric. Schonenburg Space Engineering has used this fabric to make the space pouches that protect the sensitive hardware that André Kuipers will use on board both the Sojuz spacecraft and the International Space Station.

#### Double protection

These space pouches will dampen the shocks and vibration generated by the rocket launch from Baikonur (Kazachstan). In addition to this protection, the TenCate material will ensure that, in the unlikely event of a fire on board either of the spacecraft, the space pouches and their contents will not catch fire. The pouches have been designed to ensure that their ergonomic properties, their use under conditions of weightlessness and their safety are all optimal. In addition to its heat- and flame-resistant properties, the protective fabric offers great strength and minimal outgassing, thus providing extra safety for the space travellers.

**TenCate Protective Fabrics and Schonenburg Space Engineering bv  
Almelo, the Netherlands, Wednesday, 21 December 2011**

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#### For further information:

Digital photos are available on request via: [media@tencate.com](mailto:media@tencate.com)

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**Schonenborg Space Engineering BV** develops flight hardware for experimental and support purposes for the International Space Station and other carriers. In addition, feasibility studies will be conducted for rocket propulsion systems, planetary landing systems and satellites.

**TenCate Protective Fabrics** develops and produces protective and safety fabrics for the industry, the service industry, fire services and defence. TenCate Protective Fabrics has production locations in Europe, Asia and North America.

**Royal Ten Cate** (TenCate) is a multinational company that combines textile technology, with chemical processes and material technology in the development and production of functional materials with distinctive characteristics. TenCate products are sold throughout the world. Systems and materials from TenCate come under four areas of application: safety & protection, space & aerospace, infrastructure and the environment, sport and recreation. TenCate occupies leading positions in protective fabrics, composites for space and aerospace, antiballistics, geosynthetics and synthetic turf. TenCate is listed on NYSE Euronext (AMX).