

# Exploring strategic opportunities for Decor business with suppliers in China

- Ahlstrom-Munksjö is committed to the Decor business and wants to develop and grow the business in a sustainable manner
- Partnering with a Chinese supplier would be based on strong strategic and financial rational
  - Create global leader with strong presence in the world's two largest markets
  - Strengthen the business and abilities to serve our customers in the shortand long-term
  - Allow leveraging from industry leading brand, with premium quality and service, and the state-of-the-art production capabilities on a global scale
- Investigating the possibility to attract outside capital into the Decor business
  - Speed up the execution of strategy
  - Outside capital will enable investments to grow and develop Decor business and strengthen our operations into a stand-alone global operation



### Decor

#### **Demand drivers**

- Population and GDP growth
- Rapidly growing middle class in D&E markets driving construction and furniture demand
- Substitution from solid wood, veneer and plastic foils

### **Key strengths**

- Industry leading brand well established supplier with leading capabilities and reputation in service and quality
- Strong positions in Europe and Americas
- Diverse, high quality product and service offering
- Global leader in solid colors and pre-impregnated papers

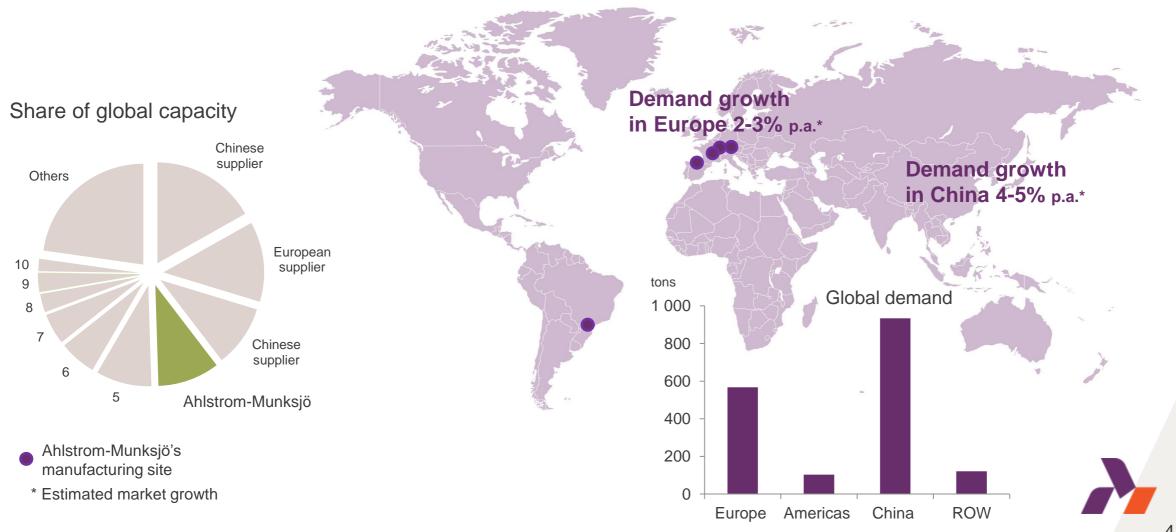
#### Ahlstrom-Munksjö Decor Business Area

- Market position: #2–4
- Key markets: Europe and Americas
- Average market growth: 3% p.a.
- Annual net sales in 2018: EUR 452 million
- Decor production platform
  - Dedicated plants: Unterkochen (DE), Dettingen
    (DE) and Tolosa (SP)
  - Shared plants: Arches (FR) and Caieiras (BR)

Sales breakdown by business in 2018

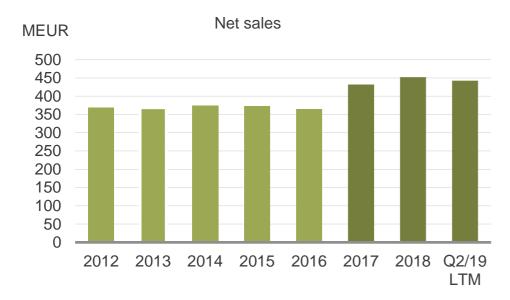


### Strong in Europe and Americas, leading brand globally



### Financial background

### Volatility in profitability driven by fluctuating raw material costs and market demand





#### 2012-2016

- Strong underlying market growth
- Price and mix management driving margin improvement

#### 2017

 Rapidly escalating raw material costs driving price increases, margin erosion and inventory build-up across the industry

#### 2018

- Volume losses in oversea markets due to price increases and new competition, impacting sales and EBITDA
- Gross margins per ton restored through successful price increases
- Industry-wide de-stocking following the peak of TiO<sub>2</sub> prices in the summer adding further negative impact on sales in the second half of the year
- Sharp decline in market demand

#### 2019-

- Continued weak and volatile demand, causing price pressure
- Gross margin per ton maintained on a good level through successful price management



# Strategic Priorities – the way forward

 Defend and grow leading positions in Europe and North America

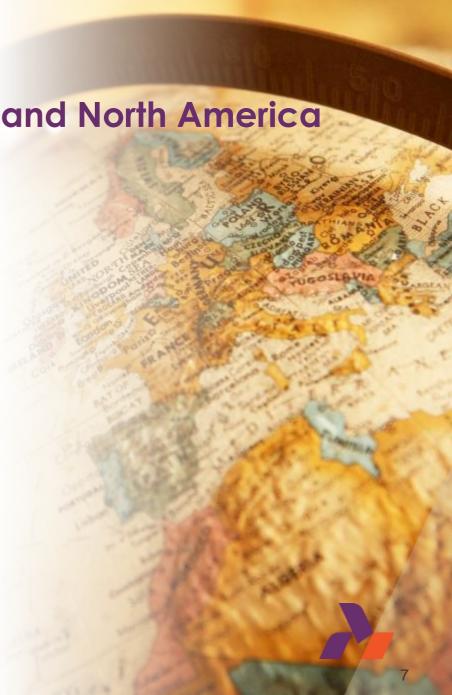
 Strengthen growth platform in South America

Entry to China



### Defend and grow leading positions in Europe and North America

- Continue optimization of product and customer mix
  - Further enhance capabilities in the most attractive segments
  - Colors and pre-impregnated papers
- Maintain leadership in quality, service and innovation to deliver the best customer value
  - Investment at the Dettingen plant, Germany, to enhance the quality of pre-impregnated decor papers
- Improve cost competitiveness and production efficiency
  - Enhanced raw material and energy efficiency (best practice implementation)
  - Harmonization of colors and product line optimization
  - Optimize supply footprint and long-term investment strategy
- Continue to be a forerunner in sustainability

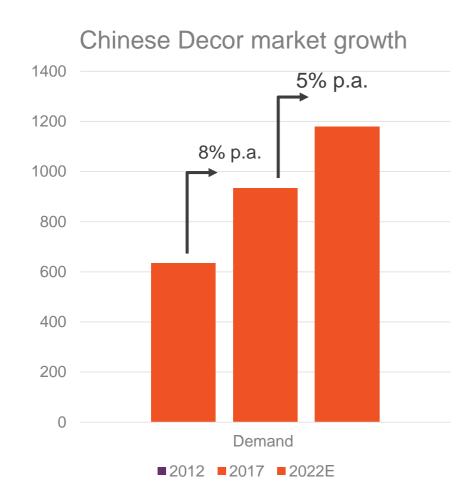


## Establish a strong growth platform in South America

- As the only decor producer in South America, Caieiras offers a unique platform to grow in Latin American markets
- A program to realize Caieiras full potential is being implemented
  - Sourcing
  - Optimization of recipes
  - Claim reduction program
  - Product line optimization
  - Trainings and best practice transfer
- Sales and technical customer service being integrated step by step
- Investment program to enable Caieiras to grow and qualify as print based paper supplier is being developed and finalized



# Chinese decor paper market – rapidly growing big market



- After two decades of rapid growth,
  China is currently the world's largest decor paper market
- In 2018, annual demand increased by 7% compared to 2017
- Two-third of global demand growth is expected to come from China
- High-quality segment growing significantly faster than the market

