



# Opening up New Markets and Achieving Corporate Objectives with LCA

## Case Study | Interface & Sphera

### Interface: Market Development

- TacTiles® are an innovative, sustainable product that instantly opened up a new market – more than 40 million square meters of TacTiles® have been installed since 2006.
- Microtuft™ is a new product developed to meet the same quality criteria as its predecessor but which uses around 50% less yarn. With 13.2% of sales in Europe, Microtuft™ is one of Interface's fastest-growing product lines.

### Interface: Cost Development

- Energy use during production has been cut by 40%, and yarn use per unit is down by 12% (in both cases, since 1996).
- 43% of the raw materials used have been replaced by biodegradable or even recycled alternatives.
- All the measures have delivered total annual cost savings of €7.6m since 1996 (source: lavery/pennel; New Industrial Model Report).

### Sphera's Contribution

**... enables product innovation:** Deploying GaBi life cycle assessment (LCA) software enabled Interface to develop the new product TacTiles®. The development of Microtuft™ was derived, verified, and reviewed largely on the basis of analyses from the life cycle assessment.

**... minimizes risks:** The volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in carpet adhesive can trigger symptoms in people in the production chain as well as residents of domestic properties, for example. Thanks to GaBi, it was possible to develop alternatives.

**...helps achieving transparency and credibility:** In cooperation with suppliers and customers, Interface has achieved considerable gains in transparency and credibility by voluntarily preparing EPDs for more than 90% of its products.

**... delivers cost savings:** Reusing reprocessed nylon for the carpet fibers not only optimizes Interface's carbon footprint: it has also yielded relevant cost savings in this area – savings that Interface has passed on to its suppliers and end customers (Basis: GaBi carbon footprint).

# On the Way to Greater Sustainability with LCA

*"Everyone talks about end-to-end integration of sustainability. But this can be achieved only if sustainability is also embedded in the product. Life cycle assessment with GaBi software is our way of measuring this."*

Ramon Arratia, Sustainability Director EMEA  
InterfaceFLOR

## About Interface

There are few companies that develop a vision that is truly their own and consistently put it into practice. Interface founder Ray Anderson set out his vision of a better world as follows: "There has to be a better way." Since 1994, this has been the backdrop against which Interface – the global market leader in developing and manufacturing modular textile floor coverings – has committed itself to sustainable action through its Mission Zero®. Interface has been using GaBi software since 2001. With the aid of life cycle assessments,

Interface takes the entire life cycle of a carpet tile into consideration, from raw material extraction, to production and transportation, right through to use by the customer, care, and disposal. Life cycle assessments enable companies to see the big picture. LCAs determine the effects on the environment in each of these phases and clearly show where there is greatest potential in terms of transparency, innovation, the product portfolio, cost savings, and risk management.



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## About Sphera

Sphera is the leading global provider of Integrated Risk Management software and information services with a focus on Environment, Health, Safety & Sustainability (EHS&S), Operational Risk and Product Stewardship. Sphera has advanced Operational Excellence for more than 30 years, serving companies and customers across the globe to create a safer, more sustainable and productive world.