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Successful acquisition of Chemson Polymer-Additive AG in Arnoldstein by Buy_Out CE II

Klagenfurt 20 June 2008 - Buy_Out Central Europe II Beteiligungs-Invest AG (Buy_Out CE II), a private equity company specialised in medium-sized business financing, announces its purchase of Chemson Polymer-Additive AG (Chemson), subject to approval under antitrust legislation. The enterprise, headquartered in Arnoldstein, is the world's leading producer of polymer additives, used mainly in PVC production. The products produced by Chemson facilitate and support manufacturing of PVC. They render significant properties to the finished PVC product, such as light-stability, durability, colour fastness or strength. With a global staff complement of 665 and production locations in Austria, Germany, England, Brazil, Australia, the USA and China, Chemson generated a turnover of EUR 261 million in the 2006/7 financial year.

Strategic growth

"We are pleased about the successful acquisition of a global player from Austria. It is our objective to support the company in aggressively expanding its growth, especially in Eastern Europe and Asia, and developing its market lead", says Kurt Stiassny, chairman of Buy_Out. This is where the know-how of Buy_Out in matters of financing and company development can be optimally deployed.

Chemson management participation

In the first phase, Buy_Out acquires 100% of the company shares; in the second phase, the company's management will participate proportionally. In parallel, Buy_Out invites Austrian financial investors to co-finance as partners, but it will retain the majority in the company. The seller in essence is a Swiss financial investor. It was agreed that the selling price would remain confidential.

About Chemson

The Chemson of today was formed in 1986, in a joint venture between the Chemetall and Cookson companies. Between 1989 and 1991, Metallgesellschaft AG (today, GEA Group AG) purchased the JV shares of Cookson on the one hand, and the shares of BBU Chemie GmbH in Arnoldstein, on the other.

The company created thereby was re-named Chemson Polymer-Additive GmbH. In the year 2000, Leman Capital, together with the management at the time, took over the company.

Today, Chemson is the leading manufacturer of polymer additives for application in areas such as windows and profiles, tubes and fittings as well as cables. The products are supplied in granular, tablet or powder form.

Chemson is pursuing a clear growth strategy to expand market leadership in the longer term. This involves strategic acquisitions such as the take-over of the German Allstab Group in 2004, the voluntary undertaking by the PVC processing industry to abolish lead-based stabilisers in Western Europe by 2015 and through active research and development, with the trend clearly pointing to alternative eco-friendly systems such as calcium / zinc and organically-based stabilisers (OBS). Chemson thus contributes significantly to environmental protection.

“Notable growth is evident in Eastern Europe and Asia, whilst the best growth can be expected in the emerging markets of India and China,” explains Roula Millauer, board member of Chemson AG.

The take-over of Chemson is the second large investment of Buy_Out CE II in six months already. December 2007 saw the successful acquisition of the Tiroler Röhren/Buderus (TRM) Group, with management participation - also a pan-European technological and market leader.

*The **Buy_Out Central Europe II Beteiligungsgruppe** was created in the spring of 2007, through collaboration between Kurt Stiassny, former chairman of the Invest AG company, and Michael Tojner, founder and board member of the leading Austrian investment company Global Equity Partners Beteiligungs-Management AG (GEP). The participation focuses of Buy_Out Central Europe II focuses on medium-sized industrial and commercial companies with an annual turnover around EUR 30 to 300 million. Besides Austria, the geographic target area also includes Switzerland, Southern Germany and Eastern Europe.*

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