

*Press release December 21, 2004*

## **Nordic Capital to acquire Plastal**

Nordic Capital Fund V has signed an agreement to acquire Plastal from the group of current owners led by Gilde Investment Management. Plastal is a leading supplier of injection moulded bumpers, plastic interior parts and decorative trim to the European automotive industry, with a strong market position in the premium car and light truck segment. Plastal achieved revenues of approximately SEK 3,800 million in 2003 and had approximately 2,100 employees at the end of 2003. Nordic Capital will own Plastal together with the company's management who will own a minority shareholding of about 18%. Christer Palm will continue as CEO of Plastal.

Plastal is headquartered in Kungälv, Sweden and has production sites in 7 countries - Belgium, Germany, Italy (2), Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden (3).

Anders Hultin, Partner at Nordic Capital, commented: "Plastal is a leading supplier to the premium car and light truck segment, and with the increased use of plastics within the automotive industry the company exhibits exciting prospects for growth. Furthermore, Plastal has strong and long-term customer relationships with the leading producers of premium cars and light trucks in Europe. We look forward to working closely with Plastal's highly experienced and well regarded management team to further develop and expand the business, with the aim of listing the company on the stock exchange within three to five years."

Christer Palm, CEO of Plastal, commented: "We are pleased that the deal with Nordic Capital has been finalized. We have had a rewarding three-and-a-half-year relationship with Gilde, and with Nordic Capital as new owners I see great opportunities for further development and expansion of Plastal. Our relationship with Nordic Capital has deepened during the due diligence process and given Nordic Capital's successful track record, we are confident in their commitment to invest in and grow Plastal going forward. Clear, long-term ambitions and vision will benefit our customers and employees alike. Nordic Capital will doubtless help us to realize our goals and we are delighted to have their support."

The transaction is expected to close in February 2005 with completion subject to regulatory approvals.

Contacts:

Anders Hultin, Partner, Nordic Capital, +46 8 440 50 50

Christer Palm, CEO, Plastal, +46 303 24 67 70

### **Nordic Capital**

Nordic Capital is a leading private equity firm focusing on investments in the Nordic middle market arena. The firm has a strong investment track record, an extensive network of contacts and firsthand knowledge of local industries and business practices. Since its inception in 1989, Nordic Capital has invested in more than 50 Nordic-based companies operating in a range of segments and sectors. Nordic Capital's proven investment strategy creates value by actively implementing key value drivers, such as new industrial combinations, strategic repositioning and internationalization. A range of leading Nordic and international institutions are investors in Nordic Capital's funds.

Visit [www.nordiccapital.com](http://www.nordiccapital.com) for more information about Nordic Capital