



Press release, December 2, 2005

Vestar Capital Partners to acquire Nybron Flooring International from Nordic Capital and HIAG

Vestar Capital Partners has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Switzerland-based Nybron Flooring International, European market leader in wood flooring products, from HIAG and Nordic Capital Funds.

Based in Jona, Switzerland, Nybron Flooring International (“Nybron”) is the leading European producer of wood flooring and the world market leader in pre-finished engineered wood flooring products. Nybron’s business is comprised of three leading wood flooring companies including Bauwerk of Switzerland, Kährs of Sweden and Marty of France. The company owns a portfolio of long standing, well established brands consistently positioned at the high-end premium segment of the global wood flooring market.

HIAG and Nordic Capital Funds created Nybron in 2000 through the simultaneous acquisition and merger between Kährs, Bauwerk and Marty. Since the creation of the group, Nybron management, led by Stefan Jacobsson, has executed an impressive integration plan to promote synergies between the three companies and substantially build the group. Significant capital investments have been made in the areas of product, production and market development and efficiencies have been realized across the purchasing, logistic and production value chain.

Today, Nybron conducts its business worldwide with 11 production facilities in Switzerland, Austria, France, Sweden and Norway and is selling its products in more than 40 countries. The company generates annual revenues in excess of €400 million and has over 2,600 employees worldwide.

Robert Rosner, President of Vestar Capital Partners Europe and a founding partner of the firm commented, “We are thrilled to be backing such an outstanding organization and management team. Nybron owns an impressive array of leading brands with very attractive market positions and growth prospects.” Paris-based Rosner, a 21-year veteran of the Vestar team added “Vestar is entering the capital of Nybron with a long term investment horizon and will provide Stefan Jacobsson and his management team with substantial capital resources to back the company’s growth plans including broad international expansion in markets such as the U.S. and selected complementary acquisitions. Nybron’s business profile and impressive track record are perfectly aligned with our firm’s investment strategy--namely to back solid companies, run by talented and experienced management teams, who have the passion to be both owners and operators of their business”.

Stefan Jacobsson, Nybron’s President and Chief Executive Officer noted “We are delighted to be partnering with Vestar Capital in the next chapter of our company’s growth. Vestar’s presence in both the U.S. and European markets and their significant financial resources make them the right partner for Nybron and our management team. We are confident that our partnership is an excellent match of our operating management skills and their experienced global capital. Our partnership with Nordic Capital and HIAG was a great opportunity for us to develop our business so successfully. We are grateful for their support and backing over these years”.

Peter Hansson, Partner, Nordic Capital, and Dr. Gustav Grisard, chairman of HIAG, state jointly “Nybron has during our ownership developed into Europe’s leading and most profitable wooden flooring company. The management has done an impressive job in transforming three regional companies into the leader in Europe in

its field. The company now achieves the highest margins in the industry and has a very solid base to enter its next phase of development, focusing on growth. We are confident that Nybron will continue to prosper under its new ownership. Vestar is acquiring a very attractive business and a first class management team. It's a transaction that has all the ingredients for continued success”.

The parties have agreed not to disclose the transaction value.

The transaction is subject to regulatory clearances and is expected to close in January 2006.

For more information, please contact:

Nordic Capital

Peter Hansson
Partner
Tel: +46 8-440 50 50

Nybron Flooring

International
Stefan Jacobsson
CEO
Tel: +41 55 220 60 51

Vestar Capital Partners

Robert Rosner
Tel: +33 1 58 56 60 20
Vincent Fesquet
Tel: +33 1 58 56 60 26

HIAG

Christian Wenger
Director
Tel: +41 44 563 33 33

Andy Rowlands
(Burson-Marsteller London)
Tel: +44 207 300 64 94
Lawrence Budger
(Burson-Marsteller New York)
Tel: +1 212 614 41 40

Vestar Capital Partners is a leading private equity firm specializing in management buyouts, growth capital investments and recapitalizations. Vestar's investment strategy is targeted towards companies in the U.S. and Europe with valuations in the €100 million to €2 billion range. Since the firm's founding in 1988, Vestar has completed over 50 investments in the U.S. and Europe in companies with a total value of approximately \$17 billion. These companies have varied in size and geography and span a broad range of industries. The firm's strategy is to invest behind management teams, family owners, or corporations in a creative, flexible and entrepreneurial way with the overriding goal to build long-term franchise value. Vestar currently manages funds totalling approximately \$7 billion and has offices in New York City, Denver, Boston, Paris and Milan. www.vestarcapital.com

Nordic Capital is a leading private equity firm focusing on investments primarily 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 60 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 funds. www.nordiccapital.com.

HIAG is a European group in the forest products industry, originating from and based in Switzerland. HIAG's activities cover production and marketing of parquet, wood-based panels and doors. HIAG serves furthermore the Swiss artisans by a nation-wide trading organisation. HIAG employs approximately 700 people. www.hiag.com