

Press release
Antwerp, 2 February 2007
17:45 CET

GIMV AND KBC PRIVATE EQUITY JOIN MANAGEMENT TO ACQUIRE 100% OF BELGIAN MEBROM GROUP

**GIMV and KBC Private Equity are each acquiring 25% of Ghent-based Mebrom Group, together with the management, led by CEO Patrick Goossens, taking the remaining 50%. Mebrom Group distributes special gases in small packages. Over half of Mebrom Group's sales are generated by its Gasco division (distribution of refrigerant and industrial gases and related products across Europe), and 40% by its Mebrom division (worldwide distribution of methyl bromide).
No financial details on this transaction are being published.**

The Mebrom Group (www.mebrom-group.com) distributes special gases in small packages from its facility at Rieme-Ertvelde, close to Ghent. In 2006 the group achieved a turnover of EUR 47 million. Its main divisions are Gasco and Mebrom. The largest activity of the Gasco division, which accounts for 51% of sales, is distributing refrigerant and industrial gases and related products across Europe. Mebrom, with 40% of total group sales, is the world's second largest distributor of methyl bromide. Methyl bromide is a colourless and odourless gas, used primarily to fumigate agricultural land. Methyl bromide is also very effective disinfecting agent for containers, buildings and silos. Mebrom distributes its products in over 60 countries.

GIMV and KBC Equity are each acquiring 25% of the Mebrom Group, and the management team the remaining 50%. Sellers are BV Capital Partners and certain members of the management team who have held the company since 2004. GIMV and KBC Private Equity intend to expand the business together with the management by applying a buy and build strategy in the group's various fields of activity.

Subject to the approval of the German competition authorities, the transaction should be completed by the end of February. All parties involved have decided not to give further information following this communication.

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Since its incorporation in 1980 GIMV has grown into Belgium's most important venture capital provider and company-builder. GIMV has now become a major European and international market player. Both in Belgium and abroad, GIMV invests in information and communication technology, life sciences as well as in growth financing and management buy-outs (MBOs) of companies in more traditional sectors. GIMV currently manages around EUR 1.5 billion of assets (including third party funds). GIMV has been listed on Euronext Brussels since 1997. For more information on GIMV, please go to www.gimv.com.

KBC Private Equity, the investment company of the KBC Group, provides growth capital, finances buy-outs, and makes available money and advice to medium-sized enterprises in KBC Group's home markets in Belgium and Central Europe. KBC Private Equity has over 75 active shareholdings in its portfolio, with a market value of over EUR 450 million, and boasts an experienced 25 person team. More information on KBC Private Equity can be found at www.kbcpe.be.