

Press Release



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23 October 2006

Q-BAKERIES SET FOR CONTINUED GROWTH WITH NEW INVESTORS

KBC Private Equity NV and the AVEVE Group confirm the acquisition by a group of financial investors of industrial bakery, Q-Bakeries Belgium NV ('QBB').

QBB is a Belgian bakery group specialising in fresh bread and quality pastries. From its six production units in Diest, Heusden-Zolder, Morlanwelz, Kobbegem and Ardoole, QBB supplies supermarkets all over Belgium. It also supplies a group of its own shops and catering and food-service companies. QBB has an annual turnover of over €58 million.

The new investors include Parcom Ventures, the equity and venture capital provider of the ING Group, and Janivo Holding, an investment firm based in Zeist (NL). Parcom and Janivo are long-term investors with experience in the food industry. Parcom, for instance, has been a shareholder of Bakkersland Group in the Netherlands since 1999.

This investment is consistent with the investors' strategy to step up their activities in the food industry. They intend to expand QBB's activities in Belgium in fresh bread and patisserie products and boost activities in 'bake-off' products that are baked in shops or at consumers' homes.

The acquisition of Q-Bakeries Belgium NV was initiated by Hayhill Capital Partners. Hayhill focuses on investments in the Benelux and is active in the development of a number of companies in the food industry.

For more information on this press release, please contact:

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Note for the Editor:

About KBC Private Equity:

KBC Private Equity - the private equity company of KBC group - provides development capital, finances buy-outs, and provides funds and advice to medium-sized companies in Belgium and in Central and Eastern Europe, KCB Group's home markets. Boasting an experienced team of 23 people, it has more than 75 active investments in portfolio with a market value in excess of €350 million. (www.kbcpe.be)

About AVEVE:

The Aveve Group is Belgium's largest agricultural and horticultural supplier. Employing around 1 500 people, Aveve has a turnover of some €700 million, two-thirds of which is derived from sales to the agricultural and horticultural sectors in Belgium. Aveve develops and produces livestock feed, agricultural and garden seeds, seed grain and potatoes, and markets plant nutrition and protection products for fruit-growers, arable farmers and horticulturalists. John Deere agricultural and horticultural machinery is sold in Belgium by Aveve. In addition, Aveve plays a role in commercialising farm products through grain and maize collection, contract work in livestock breeding, and abattoirs. Aveve puts its agrarian expertise to work in other sectors, too, such as in the garden centres of the Aveve Tuincentrum distribution chain and in IT, through IT Omni NV (specialising in feed & food).

Website: : www.aveve.be