Press Release

ARGOS SODITIC SELLS SWISS CABLE MACHINERY GROUP MAILLEFER TO ALPHA GROUPE

Geneva, 11 February 2008 - Euroknights IV, an investment fund advised by Argos Soditic, an independent European private equity firm, has sold Maillefer Extrusion SA, a Swiss cable machinery producer, to Alpha Groupe in a secondary buyout for an undisclosed amount.

Argos Soditic acquired Maillefer in 2001 in a spin-off from Nextrom, a listed vehicle majority owned by Nokia, in a management buyout. At the time, Maillefer, which provides manufacturing solutions to the world's wire, cable and tube and pipe manufacturing industries, was suffering from the downturn in the telecoms industry. Over the next few years, Argos Soditic and Maillefer's management team restructured the business model from a manufacturer to a fully out-sourced provider of value-added solutions and services to the wire and cable industry. As a result, the company enjoyed a new, flexible cost structure and capacity and was well positioned to take advantage of growth in the wire and cable machinery markets.

Today Maillefer, which is located in Ecublens, Switzerland, enjoys a strong market position in each of its core markets, which are benefiting from a boom in infrastructure investment. Maillefer's sales have evolved from CHF 100m in 2001 to CHF 270m in 2007.

"Despite difficult market conditions from 2001-2004, the management team at Mailler stuck to the long term strategy of moving to a flexible, out-sourced model which would create value once the markets recovered," says Guy Semmens, Partner at Argos Soditic in Geneva, who led the transaction. *"As a result Argos Soditic was able to work with management to implement a restructuring program that has transformed the company into the leading player in the wire and cable machinery market."*

Participants in the transaction:

Advisors
Seller:

- Argos Soditic: Guy Semmens
- Advisors:
- M&A: Nordea Corporate Finance
- Legal: Lenz & Staehelin

- Financial and due diligence: Ernst & Young

Buyer:

Legal**:** Heymann & Partner

Financial due diligence: Ernst & Young

Commercial Due Diligence: AMR Int.

About ARGOS SODITIC

Created in 1989, Argos Soditic is an independent European Private Equity firm with offices in Paris, Geneva and Milan, wholly owned and operated by its partners. Argos Soditic focuses on management buy-outs and buy-ins in small and medium sized companies across Europe, but primarily in France, Italy, and Switzerland. The firm has developed a unique strategy of carrying out projects that require deep involvement with the financial shareholders and managers of companies (MBO, MBI, BIMBO, spin-off, reorganization, build-up) it acquires. The group of funds managed by the firm typically take majority stakes ranging from €5m to €50m in companies with revenues of €20m to €400m. Argos Soditic prefers to invest in companies with the capacity to become a leader in a business niche. Examples of the operations Argos Soditic has carried out include Buffet Crampon (musical instruments), Roc-Eclerc (services), Oxbow (surf wear brand), Du Pareil au Même (children's clothing), Kermel (flame retardant chemicals) and Eau Eclarlate (stain removal brand) in France, Sparco (racing accessories) and GPP (packaging) in Italy, and Maillefer (machinery), Axyntis (specialty pharma and chemicals) and ORS (services) in Switzerland.

In 2006, the firm announced the closing of a new €275m fund, Argos Soditic V, which has allowed the firm to carry out nine transactions to date: four MBOs (Driver/Sitour, GPP, FHB and Orsyp), two BIMBOs (Axyntis and Marie Laure PLV), one spin-off (Alkan) and two MBI (Chronolyss, Mertz).

For further information, we invite you to visit ***www.argos-soditic.com***

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