

PRESS RELEASE

HOLMENKOL pursues an ambitious growth strategy

Heimerdingen, January 08, 2008 – Nanotech sports outfitter HOLMENKOL goes public. At the same time, new shareholders including Nanostart AG will invest in the company so as to sustainably support its global growth.

Founding partner Nanogate will increase its shares to 50%, thereby underpinning the high strategic importance of HOLMENKOL for Europe's major nanotechnology firm. Furthermore, new shareholders will strengthen this renowned and traditional German brand by providing growth capital as well as an established network.

"Holmenkol is among the world's most innovative sports companies with excellent prospects. The change from the world's oldest ski wax manufacturer with an 86 year long tradition to a global nanotechnology growth engine for the sports industry is a thrilling showcase demonstrating our ambitious high tech portfolio", states Marco Beckmann, Managing Board Member of Nanostart AG.

Ralf Zastrau, who is a Managing Board Member of Nanogate AG, is happy that NANOGATE's enabler role, which it has played since the company was established in 2002, is now yielding fruit: "We are committed to the systematic development of interesting products and the opening up of new sales segments. That said, we are laying the foundation for increasing our partners' goodwill. We are eager to raise HOLMENKOL into an international leading position."

Besides its current core activities, i.e., winter and outdoor sports, HOLMENKOL is particularly focusing on highly attractive growth markets including water sports, cycling/mountain biking, golf and riding. Investments in marketing and patentable developments are accompanied by broad initiatives to build up the global sales function.

HOLMENKOL is specialising in chemistry, physics and biology in order to become the world's single focused specialist offering highly innovative sport surface coatings for any sporting application. Against this background, the company is concentrating on wax products,

polishes, impregnations, washing agents, cleaners and above all product finishing using functional coatings.

"Optimum new shareholder structures facilitate outstanding growth perspectives on a sound financial basis. We will clearly enhance our strategic position worldwide", say Mr. Römlein and Mr. Schultheis, Managing Board Members elect of HOLMENKOL.

True to its motto "License to win"; the Heimerdingen based innovator pinpoints its focus, i.e., developing profitable products for professional and amateur sports as well as for the specialised trade. The combination of highly functional components and environmentally friendly materials is clearly of the essence. "Over the next few years, we will introduce many new ideas", promises Dr. Markus Schütz, head of technology with HOLMENKOL.

About HOLMENKOL:

With a brand tradition of 86 years, HOLMENKOL is the world's oldest ski wax manufacturer. As a technology leader, the company provides service to almost all national teams in the world. Well known athletes, Olympic winners as well as World Cup winners and athletes with ambition bank on the company's technology and products. Since Nanogate has become an investor in Holmenkol, the company has been pursuing an international growth strategy beyond the winter sports segment, e.g., by providing applications and products for a number of other sports including water sports, hiking/camping, cycling/mountain biking and golf. HOLMENKOL's target groups are professional and ambitious amateur athletes as well as recreational athletes.

About Nanogate AG:

Nanogate is an internationally leading enabler in the growth market of nanotechnology and is committed to opening the gate to this technology for its customers. The listed company with its headquarters in Saarbrücken/Germany enables programming and integration of additional functions (e.g., anti-adhesion, anti-bacterial, corrosion protection, ultra gliding capacity), thereby helping its customers to acquire a competitive edge by finishing products using chemical nanotechnology.

About Nanostart AG:

Nanostart AG is the world's leading nanotechnology investor. The company with its headquarters in Frankfurt/Main provides growth capital to nanotechnology companies at various development phases. Furthermore, it provides know-how for the development of financial structures as well as investments in the nanotechnology sector.

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