

# Buy\_Out Central Europe II

PRESS RELEASE

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## EUR 100 MILLION PRIVATE EQUITY FOR MID-SIZE COMPANIES

- **Leading, independent investment team established under Kurt Stiassny and Michael Tojner, Austria's top experts in the area of investment financing**
- **First round financing of the private equity fund Buy\_Out Central Europe successfully concluded with more than € 100 million**
- **Investment from renowned Austrian entrepreneurs, institutional investors and Oberbank AG**
- **Investments in Austria, Southern Germany and Switzerland planned**

Vienna, July 17, 2007 - In yesterday's general meeting of Buy-Out Central Europe II Beteiligungs-Invest AG respected Austrian industrial and institutional investors, including Oberbank AG as the largest single shareholder, subscribed more than € 100 million and made the first round financing a complete success. At the start of May 2007 Buy\_Out Central Europe II Beteiligungsgruppe was established as the result of the collaboration between Kurt Stiassny, the former Chairman of the Management Board of Unternehmens Invest AG, and Michael Tojner, the founder and Director of the leading Austrian investment company Global Equity Partners Beteiligungs-Management AG (GEP). The investment focus of Buy\_Out Central Europe II is concentrated on mid-size industry and trade companies with an annual turnover from around € 30 to 300 million. As well as Austria, the geographical target area includes Switzerland and Southern Germany.

“We are very pleased with the great demand for Buy\_Out Central Europe. For us this is the proof that in the area of investment financing one of the most important assets is the expertise of the investment team. Our team has been working for more than 15 years in a wide range of functions in private equity finance, not only Austria, but in Switzerland and Southern Germany too. Overall we have conducted more than 30 transactions with a volume of over € 900 million in recent years.

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Both our investors and our future portfolio companies, whom we will accompany in a tried-and-tested manner as an active partner on the planned course of growth, will benefit from this,” comments Kurt Stiassny, Chairman of the Management Board of Buy\_Out Central Europe, on the successful first closing. The Management Board colleague Herbert Roth from the GEP industry team will support Stiassny. The supervisory board is filled with prominent representatives of Austrian business.

By the end of the year at the latest the Buy\_Out Central Europe team plans to increase the subscription volume to up to € 150 million in second round financing.

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## FACTSHEET

LEGAL FORM Aktiengesellschaft (joint stock company)

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INVESTMENT STRATEGY

*Geographical focus*  
German-speaking Central Europe and Eastern Europe (with local partners)

*Transaction focus*  
Traditional buy-outs (especially succession of family businesses, spin-offs, privatizations), growth funding

*Industry focus*  
Growth-oriented industry and trade companies

*Company focus*  
Mid-size segment with an annual turnover from around € 30 to 300 million.

Acquisition of qualified minority interests up to purchase of companies.

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VOLUME (planned) up to € 150 million at final closing (December 31, 2007)

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TERM 10 years (+ follow-up term of 2 years)

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MANAGEMENT BOARD Kurt Stiassny, Chairman  
Herbert Roth

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SUPERVISORY BOARD  
(alphabetical)

Georg Bauthen  
Manfred Bene  
Rainer Burgstaller  
Christoph Dichand  
Michael Kaufmann  
Peter Pichler  
Franz Rauch  
Erhard Schaschl