

PRESS RELEASE

Global Equity Partners takes over Austrian ASTA Group

Vienna (27.12.2011) – Global Equity Partners (GEP) intends the acquisition of ASTA Holdings GmbH. The Austrian industrial enterprise, which has been in business for almost 200 years, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of copper winding material in the field of energy production and energy transmission. The transaction is expected to be closed upon granting of antitrust approval in the first quarter of 2012.

The seller is the Malaysian Metrod Group. A contract of sale was signed on 23 December 2011. A non-disclosure agreement regarding the purchase price has been stipulated.

The ASTA group is a global leader in the field of energy production and energy transmission. ASTA supplies the most important manufacturers of power transformers and generators with copper winding material (above all CTCs, insulated wire and Roebel bars). With approximately 500 employees and production plants in Austria, China and India, the ASTA group's total revenue in the fiscal year 2010 amounted to around €160m. The company's headquarters and largest plant are located in Oed/Lower Austria.

ASTA was founded in 1814 as *Metallfabrik Oed* and was part of the VA Tech Group prior to the sale to the Metrod Group. With GEP, ASTA has again an Austrian owner who, following the successful transaction, will support the company in its long-term growth strategy as an active partner at all locations.

About GEP

Global Equity Partners is a central European investment firm which has been managing holding companies since 1998. Institutional investors from Austria, Germany and Switzerland have allocated more than €550m in equity capital to date. The investment focus of Global Equity Partners lies in the areas of growth & high-tech, medium-sized businesses & industry, real estate or long-term industrial shareholdings.

www.gep.at

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