

# BUY\_OUT CENTRAL EUROPE

## PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, October 15, 2008

### **Closing of the purchase of Chemson Polymer-Additive AG**

Vienna (October 15, 2008) Buy\_Out Central Europe II Beteiligungs-Invest AG (Buy\_Out), the fastest-growing Austrian private equity fund which was established around one year ago, announces the closing of the purchase of Chemson Polymer-Additive AG (Chemson) based in Arnoldstein.

Following the unqualified approval of the antitrust authorities, Buy\_Out acquired in the first phase 100% of the shares in the business, and in the second phase the management of the company, led by Roula Millauer, participates proportionally with around seven per cent. In parallel, Buy\_Out invites other Austrian financial investors to co-finance as partners, whereby Buy\_Out will at all events retain the majority in the company.

Kurt Stiassny, Chairman of the Management Board of Buy\_Out: “Chemson is an innovative company. It is our aim to support the company in pushing its development especially in Eastern Europe and Asia and in extending its market leadership.”

By changing over to lead-free additives the company is making an important contribution towards protecting the environment.

#### **About Chemson**

The Chemson of today was formed in 1986, in a joint venture between the Chemetall and Cookson companies. Between 1989 and 1991, Metallgesellschaft AG (today, GEA Group AG) purchased the shares of Cookson on the one hand, and the shares of BBU Chemie GmbH in Arnoldstein, on the other. The company created thereby was re-named Chemson Polymer-Additive GmbH. In 2000, Leman Capital, together with the management at the time, took over the company.

Today, Chemson is the leading manufacturer of polymer additives for application in areas such as windows and profiles, tubes, fittings and cables; it also specializes in producing lead-free stabilizers for processing PVC. The products are supplied in granular, tablet or powder form. The worldwide market leader achieves with around 665 employees a turnover of around EUR 280 million. Chemson is pursuing a clear strategy of growth in order to extend its market leadership long term. As a result of the voluntary undertaking by the PVC

# BUY\_OUT CENTRAL EUROPE

## PRESS RELEASE

processing industry to abolish lead-based stabilizers in Western Europe by 2015 and based on its active research and development, Chemson sees attractive prospects for growth.

The acquisition of Chemson is Buy\_Out's second large investment in Austria. December 2007 saw the successful acquisition of the Tiroler Röhren/Buderus (TRM) Group, also a pan-European technology and market leader, with management participation.

## About Buy-Out Central Europe II Beteiligungs-Invest AG

*Buy\_Out Central Europe II Beteiligungsgruppe* was established in the spring of 2007 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 EUR 30 to 300 million. As well as Austria, the geographical target area includes Switzerland, Southern Germany and Eastern Europe.

### For inquiries about this release, please contact:

Martin Keitel  
Hohegger Financial Relations GmbH  
Burson Marsteller Affiliate Office  
A-1040 Vienna, Prinz Eugen Straße 80/16

T +43/1/504 69 87-48  
M +43/664 965 7445  
F +43/1/505 47 01-4048

E [m.keitel@hohegger.com](mailto:m.keitel@hohegger.com)  
[www.hohegger-financials.com](http://www.hohegger-financials.com)

Kurt Stiassny  
Buy\_Out Central Europe II Beteiligungsgruppe  
Mariahilfer Straße 19-21, A-1060 Vienna

T +43/1/ 581 83 90 84  
F +43/1/ 581 76 11  
E [office@buy-out.at](mailto:office@buy-out.at)  
[www.buy-out.at](http://www.buy-out.at)