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Combined Berner Group:

Acquisition of the Rumler chemicals company

Germany, Künzelsau/Eislingen: 18.03.2008 – The Technicol chemicals division of the Berner Group in Künzelsau, Germany, is taking over the Rumler chemicals company in Eislingen as from 1 April 2008.

With this acquisition Berner is strengthening its washing and cleaning chemicals business and further increasing its competence in chemicals.

The takeover still has to be approved by the anti-trust regulator. It was agreed not to disclose the price of the transaction.

The Rumler company is a pioneer in the automatic washing of cars with over 40 years of experience. Time and again the company has set new standards through innovative products developed in its own laboratory. Examples of these are their particularly environmentally friendly premium series and their latest developments in the field of nanotechnology. The company's product range includes automatic and manual car washings.

The direct seller Rumler, formerly part of the global Zeller + Gmelin Group, is active in Germany and the Netherlands. Last fiscal year (to 31.12.2007) the company achieved net sales of over five million euros.

The Combined Berner Group is an expanding direct sales company operating throughout Europe which specializes in the sale of small parts (tools and consumables) to professionals in the building construction and automotive industries as well as other industries. The company's chemicals activities are grouped in the Technicol chemicals division.

In fiscal year 2006/07 the Combined Berner Group achieved net sales of 780 million euros.

8000 employees in over 20 European countries – more than 5000 of whom work in field sales – ensure that customers benefit from their partnership with Berner.

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