

MEDIA RELEASE**Franke closes sale of bathroom furniture operation**

Aarburg, Switzerland, July 14, 2003 – On June 30, 2003, Franke Romont SA was sold retroactively as of January 1, 2003 to the latter's current management team.

The letter of intent (signed on December 20, 2002) to sell Franke Romont SA (fabrication of bathroom furniture) followed the Franke Group's policy of strategic and organizational refocusing. Franke is concentrating on growth in the core activities Kitchen Systems, Washroom- and Sanitary Systems, Foodservice Systems (formerly Contract Group), and Coffee Systems.

Franke Romont SA was sold on June 30, 2003 retroactively as of January 1, 2003 to its current management team. At the same time the company name changed to Framo SA. Framo SA will further use the brand name "Franke" for a limited period of time. No more changes are expected with respect to management structure or number of staff.

Franke is a global provider of products, services and custom solutions for a wide range of applications in the household food preparation and catering sectors. The Franke Group, whose holding company is domiciled in Aarburg, Switzerland, has some 5,600 employees around the world, and is firmly established with 69 subsidiaries in 34 countries. The two divisions Franke Kitchen Systems (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, canopies etc. and washroom and sanitary systems) and Franke Foodservice Systems (formerly Contract Group - products and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market leaders in their business sectors, export-

ing to over 100 countries. The activities of the Franke Group also include "Franke Coffee Systems" with a broad product programme of fully-automatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines, the technology field and Beverage Containers. In fiscal year 2002 the Franke Group generated consolidated sales of CHF 1591.2 million.

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