

MEDIA RELEASE**Franke acquires its Dutch coffee machines distributor**

Aarburg, Switzerland, 27 October, 2003 – The acquisition, with retrospective effect as of 1 May, 2003, of the Dutch distributor of Franke Coffee Machines, Ko-KS Benelux B.V. and its subsidiary LesAmis Dienstverlening B.V., Nuenen, NL will give a further impetus to the international development and expansion of an own sales and service organisation for Franke Coffee Systems.

Since 1995, Franke has been represented in the Netherlands by its distributor Ko-Ks in the Coffee Machine sector. The acquisition was made to improve the market presence of the Franke Coffee Systems in the Netherlands, to further strengthen its global presence and to advance its own sales and service organization.

To date, Ko-KS / LesAmis has been a service provider to key accounts in the coffee machine sector and has also developed a successful customer service organisation. The company currently employs 22 staff. Consolidated sales were Euro 3.6 million for the financial year 2002. As 'Franke Koffiesystemen B.V.' the new Franke company will be fully integrated into the Franke Group and the Franke Coffee Systems operating division respectively.

*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 35 countries. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, ovens, 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, exporting 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 as well as the technology field and Beverage Containers. In fiscal year 2002 the Franke Group generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,591.2 million and CHF 722.7 million in the first half of 2003.*

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