

**MEDIA RELEASE****Franke acquires interest in the Faber Group**

**Aarburg, Switzerland, 11 August 2004 – The Franke Group has signed a share purchase agreement for the purchase of 49% of the share capital of Finfaber S.p.A, the Holding company of the Faber Group located in Fabriano, Italy. Faber is one of the leading manufacturers of cooker hoods (air management in the kitchen) and comprises 9 production plants as well as 5 additional trading companies.**

The Faber Group is one of the three world leaders in the cooker hoods area. The core business is complemented by related products in the ventilation sector. Faber's strengths are high quality products, strong branding and an established business with strong international presence. In fiscal year 2003 Faber generated consolidated sales of approximately CHF 300 million and has some 1,200 employees around the world. Production plants are located in Italy, Turkey, Spain, France, Sweden, Russia, India, China, and Argentina. In total the Group comprises 14 companies including trading companies and holds additional minority interests. Faber is, and will also remain privately held after the share purchase by Franke.

From this investment, Franke and Faber expect great growth potential in international markets, based on the multiple synergies resulting from the cooperation and partnership of the two groups.

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The **Franke** Group is a global provider of products, services and custom solutions for a wide range of applications in the household food preparation and catering sectors. Franke, whose holding company is domiciled in Aarburg, Switzerland, has some 5,600 employees around the world, and is firmly established with 72 subsidiaries in 36 countries. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, ovens, hoods etc. and washroom and sanitary systems) and **Franke Foodservice Systems** (products and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market leaders in their business sectors, exporting to over 100 countries. The activities of Franke 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 2003 Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,470.3 million.

The **Faber** Group is one of the three leading manufactures of cooker hoods and comprises 9 production plants in Italy, Turkey, Spain, France, Sweden, Russia, India, China, and Argentina as well as 5 additional trading companies. In fiscal year 2003 Faber generated consolidated sales of approximately CHF 300 million and has some 1,200 employees around the world.

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