

**MEDIA RELEASE****Franke extends activities in South Africa**

**Aarburg, Switzerland, 23 August 2005 – Franke acquired two South African geyser manufacturers providing water heaters for residential buildings in the area of Johannesburg**

After the acquisition of Supa Heat Geysers (Pty.) Ltd. (re-named Franke Water Heating Systems (Pty.) Ltd) in the first quarter of 2005 a second acquisition of a geyser manufacturer in South Africa followed: The Geyser Company (Pty) Ltd. in the region of Johannesburg.

In 2004, the two companies together reported sales worth more than CHF 25 million and employed a total of 150 persons. Both companies have a combined market share of 37% in their market segment in South Africa.

The geyser manufacturing industry is highly profitable and dominated by few players. These acquisitions mean for Franke a complementation and expansion of the existing kitchen systems business in Durban, South Africa, with synergies in the areas of distribution, installation, and service.

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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 7,500 employees around the world, and is firmly established with 85 subsidiaries in 39 countries. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, ovens, hoods and washroom and sanitary sys-*

tems) 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 the financial year 2004, Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,628.0 million.

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