

MEDIA RELEASE

Franke acquires the German KSO GmbH

Aarburg, Switzerland, 20 July 2006 – With effect from 1 July 2006, Franke will acquire KSO GmbH, which had previously gone bankrupt, and will thus expand its activity of beverage containers.

KSO GmbH in Wirsberg, Germany, generated sales of just under CHF 10 million in 2005 and has about 30 employees.

Franke has been manufacturing beverage containers since acquiring Blefa GmbH & Co.KG, Kreuztal, Germany, in 1995. Since the acquisition, Blefa has developed into one of the world's leading manufacturers of kegs (stainless steel containers) for the brewing industry and other beverage fields.

The new company at the Wirsberg site will now be expanded into an efficient repair and service centre for beverage containers.

***Franke** is a global supplier of products, services and customised solutions in the household and catering food preparation sectors, broadly defined. The Franke Group, headquartered in Aarburg, Switzerland, is firmly established with 85 subsidiaries in 41 countries, and has approximately 8,500 employees worldwide. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, fittings, extractor hoods, hobs, ovens) and **Franke Foodservice Systems** (kitchen equipment and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market leaders in their respective segments, with exports to over 100 countries. Further activities of the Franke Group include **Franke Coffee Systems** with a wide range of su-*

*perautomatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines, **Franke Washroom and Sanitary Systems** (washroom and sanitary systems for public and semi-public use) as well as industrial engineering and beverage technology. Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,959.0 million in 2005.*

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