

MEDIA RELEASE**Franke takes over the French Benthor**

Aarburg, Switzerland, 14 December 2006 - With immediate effect Franke takes over the business of the French company L'Européenne d'Eviers S.A. (Benthor) and its production facility in Slovakia and expands activities in France.

L'Européenne d'Eviers S.A., Saint Priest, France, and its subsidiary Benthor Drezy in Zilina, Slovakia, generated sales of about Euro 16 million in 2005 and had about 90 employees. The company produces and distributes household sinks and some sanitary products, using the brand name Benthor. The company has been in a reorganization process since July 2006.

The take over by Franke has been approved by the French judicial authorities today. Franke France S.A.S. resumes the business with part of the staff. Both locations, in France (Saint Priest) and Slovakia will remain.

Through this acquisition Franke will gain new distribution channels in France and further expand the business.

Franke is a global supplier of products, services and customized 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, tabs, extractor hoods, hobs, ov-

ens) 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 super automatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines, **Franke Washroom Systems** (washroom and sanitary systems for public and semi-public use), **Franke Beverage Containers** as well as industrial engineering. Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,959.0 million in 2005.

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