

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ÅR Packaging divestment cancelled – Ahlström Capital to continue as ÅR Packaging's main shareholder**

***ÅR Packaging Group announced in November 2013 that it would divest all of its businesses. However, due to the failed sale of the Tobacco business the divestment process has been cancelled. Ahlström Capital will continue as ÅR Packaging's main shareholder and is committed to develop the company further.***

ÅR Packaging Group, one of Ahlström Capital's portfolio companies, announced on November 8, 2013 that it had signed agreements which when completed, would lead to divesting all ÅR Packaging businesses. The operations of ÅR Packaging consist of Tobacco, Specialties, and Food packaging businesses. However, the Tobacco business divestment will not be completed.

Simultaneously, ÅR Packaging has ended the divestment negotiations regarding the Specialties packaging and the Food packaging operations.

"Ahlström Capital will continue as an active shareholder of ÅR Packaging Group with the other current owners of the company. After development measures taken especially in 2012, ÅR Packaging is considerably more competitively positioned in the market than before. Year 2013 proved to be a very strong year for ÅR Packaging, which forms a solid basis for developing the company further," says Panu Routila, President and CEO of Ahlström Capital Oy.

Ahlström Capital, funds managed by Accent Equity and ÅR Packaging Group management will continue as shareholders of ÅR Packaging. Ahlström Capital owns 63% of the company's shares.

Additional information:

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***ÅR Packaging Group***

*ÅR Packaging Group is one of Europe's leading companies in the packaging sector with a turnover exceeding EUR 420 million and 1,600 employees in 14 factories in seven countries. The head office is situated in Lund, Sweden. ÅR Packaging Group was formed in 2011 as a merger between A&R Carton Group, one of Europe's leading packaging groups and Flextrus, a leader in northern Europe within flexible packaging.*

***Ahlström Capital***

*Ahlström Capital is a private equity investment company that creates added value for its owners by channeling its investments into industrial companies, real estate and cleantech growth companies. The company is one of Finland's biggest private equity investors, with the total net sales of its portfolio companies exceeding one billion euros.*

***Accent Equity***

*Founded in 1994, Accent is a private equity pioneer in the Nordic region. Since its inception, Accent funds have invested in close to 70 companies, whereof some 50 have been realized. Accent Equity Partners AB has served as an advisor to seven funds with total commitments of more than EUR 1 billion. Accent's ambition is to develop the portfolio companies into Nordic, European or global players via enduring improvements of the companies' business operations and strategic positions.*