

**PRESS RELEASE**

January 10, 2014

**Ahlström Capital participates in financing arrangement as Ahlstrom sells Paulínia plant in Brazil to Suominen**

***Ahlstrom Corporation and Suominen Corporation have agreed on the sale of Paulínia plant to Suominen. The plant used to be part of Ahlstrom's former Home and Personal business area, and the enterprise value of the transaction is agreed at EUR 17.5 million. Ahlström Capital participates in the financing arrangement and will have the possibility of becoming the largest shareholder of Suominen.***

Suominen purchased Ahlstrom's Home and Personal business area in 2011, but the transfer of the Brazil unit, i.e. the shares of Ahlstrom Fabricação de Não-Tecidos Ltda, was delayed due to delays in required official permissions and consequent renegotiations. Suominen and Ahlstrom have today agreed on the sale of the shares of the company operating the Paulínia plant to Suominen.

Suominen will finance the transaction through a convertible hybrid bond issue with a nominal value of EUR 17.5 million. In connection with the transaction, Ahlstrom has agreed to underwrite any convertible hybrid capital notes not sold to the market. As part of the financing arrangement, Ahlström Capital has committed to purchase any notes subscribed by Ahlstrom at the same nominal value, within 9.5 months of the closing of the Paulínia transaction.

As compensation for this commitment, Ahlström Capital and Ahlstrom have agreed that Ahlström Capital has an option to acquire Ahlstrom's shareholding in Suominen at a price of EUR 0.50 per share within 10 months of the closing of the transaction. Ahlstrom is the largest shareholder in Suominen and owns a total of 66,666,666 Suominen shares, representing 26.89 percent of company shares.

"Completion of the Brazil transaction is beneficial for both Ahlstrom and Suominen, and we are pleased to participate in the financing arrangement. The transfer of Paulínia plant to Suominen presents the company with a natural way to expand into the South American market. We believe in Suominen's growth-oriented strategy and consider it as an interesting opportunity that through commitments made now in the financial arrangement, Ahlström Capital has the possibility to become one of the major shareholders of Suominen," says Panu Routila, President and CEO of Ahlström Capital Oy.

The completion of the transaction between Ahlstrom and Suominen requires the Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting of Suominen, to be held on January 30, 2014, to authorize the Board of Directors to decide on matters described in the notice for the Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting.

Ahlström Capital announced in August 2013 that the Ahlström family will centralize the management of its assets to Ahlström Capital. When this arrangement regarding the management of family company assets is completed, Ahlström Capital will become a major shareholder of Ahlstrom Corporation.

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*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.*