

PRESS RELEASE

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ÅR PACKAGING GROUP ACQUIRES EUROPEAN PACKAGING OPERATIONS FROM MEADWESTVACO

ÅR Packaging Group AB (“ÅR Packaging” or the “Group”) has on January 19, 2015 signed an agreement with MeadWestvaco Corporation (“MWV”) to acquire the European packaging operations from MWV. The acquisition includes the tobacco, chocolate confectionery and consumer goods packaging operations of the company.

ÅR Packaging is a leading European manufacturer of paperboard packaging, and the acquisition is a strategic step in the Group’s growth story. The net revenue of ÅR Packaging totaled EUR 424 million in 2013, and the turnover of the acquired operations is EUR 146 million. The closing of the deal is subject to customary closing conditions.

“This acquisition is a clear message to the market that ÅR Packaging is a strong and significant long-term packaging supplier. The company is a key driver of the consolidation process in the European carton packaging industry. We establish an even stronger position as one of the leaders in the tobacco segment and also on the total European folding carton scene. With this acquisition ÅR Packaging will be elevated to top 3 in Europe with a net revenue of approximately EUR 550 million,” says **Harald Schulz**, CEO of ÅR Packaging. “We will continue deploying our ambitious development plan for the company and I am pleased to make this plan happen together with my team.”

“Since year 2000, Ahlström Capital has been an owner in A&R Carton, and after the company joined forces with Flextrus in 2011, in ÅR Packaging. The Group has been a significant long-term investment for Ahlström Capital, and we are happy to see ÅR Packaging continue on its growth path. The acquisition is a clear step ahead,” says **Panu Routila**, President & CEO of Ahlström Capital Oy.

ÅR Packaging is owned by Ahlström Capital, funds managed by Accent Equity and management of the Group.

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 400 million and 1,600 employees in 14 factories in seven countries. The business is divided into three key segments: Food packaging, Barrier packaging and Branded products. 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.

MeadWestvaco

MeadWestvaco Corporation (NYSE:MWV) is a global packaging company providing innovative solutions to the world's most admired brands in the healthcare, beauty and personal care, food, beverage, home and garden, tobacco and agricultural industries. The company also produces specialty chemicals for the automotive, energy, and infrastructure industries and maximizes the value of its development land holdings. MWV's network of 125 facilities and 16,000 employees spans North America, South America, Europe and Asia.

Ahlström Capital

Ahlström Capital is one of Finland's largest investment companies. It creates value for its owners by channeling its investments into industrial companies, listed companies and real estate. Ahlström Capital Group's balance sheet exceeds one billion euros and the annual net sales of the group is approx. 1.5 billion euros. Ahlström Capital's portfolio includes significant holdings in the listed companies Ahlstrom Corporation, Munksjö Oyj, Outokumpu Oyj and Suominen Corporation. In addition to ÅR Packaging Group AB, the portfolio includes also other direct industrial investments, such as holdings in Destia Group Oyj and Enics AG, as well as major real estate and forest holdings.

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.