

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## Franke acquires W & G Sissons Ltd and significantly extends their Washroom and Sanitary Equipment Activities

**Aarburg, Switzerland, November 4, 2002 - Franke has acquired W & G Sissons Ltd, the leading stainless steel sanitaryware manufacturer in the UK. This acquisition makes Franke the European Market leader in the stainless steel sanitary product area.**

W & G Sissons Ltd, with headquarters in Chesterfield, England, produces and distributes as their core business high-grade stainless steel products for the Washroom and Sanitary Equipment (WSE) markets world-wide. Sissons also owns a subsidiary in Belgium, and the Group currently employs approximately 200 people, and in 2001 had sales of around £ 12 million (CHF 28.5 million).

To date, Franke WSE activity has been represented in the UK through agents and in Belgium by a Franke sales office. Through this acquisition, the market position in both countries will markedly improve and at the same time put Franke in front as the European market leader in this area.

The existing WSE product range will be complemented and strengthened by the integration of the Sissons' activities into the Franke Group. Moreover, the current WSE production strategy will be enhanced with an additional, well developed

production facility in Chesterfield. The good relationship between Sissons and the key export markets will be used for a new, joint WSE sales activity with an extended product range.

This acquisition follows the strategy of the Franke Group, reflecting healthy growth within the core areas. The Group-wide reorganisation that took place on May 1, 2002 covered also the newly formed Business Unit WSE; a subdivision of the Franke Kitchen Systems Division and responsible for the world-wide development of the WSE activity.

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*Franke is a global provider of products, services and custom solutions for a wide range of applications in the household food preparation and catering sectors. The Franke Group, headquartered in Aarburg, Switzerland, is firmly established with 68 subsidiaries in 34 countries and has approximately 5,400 employees. The divisions Kitchen Systems (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, extractor hoods, etc. and washroom and sanitary equipment) and Contract Group (production of equipment for quick service restaurants) are both global market leaders in their respective segments, with exports to over 100 countries. Further activities of the Franke Group consist of a wide product assortment ranging from Coffee Machines (production of fully automated coffee machines) to Technology (Industrial Engineering, Metal Construction and Tool Manufacturing) and beverage containers. Franke Group consolidated sales reached CHF 1,546.7 million in 2001 and CHF 788.1 million in the first half of 2002.*

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