

MEDIA RELEASE

Franke acquires its French distributor of Washroom and Sanitary Equipment

Aarburg, Switzerland, 29 October, 2003 –The acquisition of B.L.INOX, Chaponost, F, its French distributor of Washroom and Sanitary Systems (WSS), will enable Franke to further expand in the French market for public and communal WSS products.

Since 1997 the Washroom and Sanitary Equipment business of Franke has been represented in France by B.L.INOX SARL, a market leader for these stainless steel products. Through this acquisition, the globally operating business unit Franke WSS, which was formed in May of last year with the focus on further expansion in this business activity, will not have to incur the significant costs required to increase market share internally and will also avoid any possible rivalry that might have arisen in France.

Over the past years B.L.INOX has developed a very successful sales organization which currently employs 11 staff and 12 sales agents and expects sales of Euro 2.1 million in the financial year 2003. B.L.INOX will be fully integrated both into the Franke group structure as well as into the business unit Franke WSS operating division.

*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, whose holding company is domiciled in Aarburg, Switzerland, has some 5,600 employees around the world, and is firmly established with 69 subsidiaries in 35 countries. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, ovens, canopies etc. and washroom and sanitary systems) and **Franke Foodservice Systems** (formerly Contract Group - products and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market leaders in their business sectors, exporting to over 100 countries. The activities of the Franke Group also include **Franke Coffee Systems** with a broad product programme of fully-automatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines as well as the technology field and Beverage Containers. In fiscal year 2002 the Franke Group generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,591.2 million and CHF 722.7 million in the first half of 2003.*

*Natascha Widmer
Franke Corporate Communications
Tel. +41 62 787 38 69 / +41 76 514 88 99
Fax. +41 62 787 30 37
natascha.widmer@franke.com
www.franke.com*