

## **MEDIENMITTEILUNG**

# Franke acquires Grohe subsidiary AquaRotter and expands in Germany

**Aarburg, Switzerland, 7. September 2005 – Franke acquires AquaRotter GmbH, the leading company in Germany for special fittings, water management systems and fittings for sanitary rooms.**

AquaRotter is the technology leader in developing and producing central systems to reduce water and energy consumption and optimize hygiene. Its product lines are specifically geared towards the needs of professional users. AquaRotter delivers innovative solutions in the area of central systems for water disinfection and mobile systems for aviation and railways.

AquaRotter will be integrated in the global expanding Business Unit Franke Washroom and Sanitary Systems.

The company is based in Ludwigsfelde near Berlin employing 288 staff in its own modern facilities. Last year AquaRotter generated sales of approx. EUR 45 million.

The AquaRotter transaction is expected to be finalized by the end of September, subject to approval from the Anti-Trust Commission. Both parties have agreed to keep the purchase price confidential.



AquaRotter is a subsidiary of Grohe Water Technology AG & Co. KG, and Europe's largest manufacturer of sanitation fixtures.

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The **Franke** Group is a global provider of products, services and custom solutions for a wide range of applications in the household food preparation and catering sectors. Franke, whose holding company is domiciled in Aarburg, Switzerland, has some 7,500 employees around the world, and is firmly established with 85 subsidiaries in 39 countries. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, ovens, hoods and washroom and sanitary systems) and **Franke Foodservice Systems** (products and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market leaders in their business sectors, exporting to over 100 countries. The activities of Franke 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 the financial year 2004, Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,628.0 million.

**Grohe** Water Technology AG & Co. KG is Europe's largest manufacturer of sanitation fixtures and world market leader with a market share of approx. ten percent. The world-wide brand name for sanitary technology products and systems Grohe sets standards with regards to quality, function and design. Based in Hemer, the corporation currently employs about 5,800 people with 4,300 employees in Germany. In 2004, Grohe achieved total sales of € 911 million with faucets, showerheads for bathrooms and kitchens, automatic faucet fixtures for commercial and public zones as well as installation and rinsing systems. Grohe has eight production facilities, three of them abroad in Portugal, Thailand and Canada. The company generates 80 percent of its sales outside Germany.

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