



## Press Release

### **BHF Private Equity Closes Acquisition of Meat Processing Systems**

**Frankfurt am Main, July 2004.** BHF Private Equity and a management buy-out team have successfully closed the acquisition of Meat Processing Systems Holding B.V. (MPS). The shares were sold by institutional and private investors. The company based in Lichtenvoorde (Netherlands) considers itself one of the most innovative businesses providing slaughtering and logistics systems for the red-meat processing industry. The parties have agreed not to disclose the transaction volume.

James Homer, Partner, BHF Private Equity: "The continuous consolidation of meat processing businesses in Europe and the existing price pressure have led to a stronger demand for fast and automated meat processing lines from MPS." Homer added that the Chinese market accounting for over 50 percent of the world's pork production and international efforts towards increasing transparency and hygiene requirements in the meat processing industry represented interesting growth perspectives for a business like MPS.

#### **MPS**

MPS is a global leader in the manufacture of innovative slaughtering and logistics systems both for the red-meat industry and notably for pig-meat processing. In this sector, MPS is also a leading vendor of systems for industrial waste-water treatment. In its core business field, pig-meat processing, MPS manufactures and implements processing plants, conveyor and process-control systems facilitating automated slaughtering and storage processes.

As a full-line supplier and system integrator, MPS also attaches great importance to comprehensive project advisory services, from projecting and design all the way up to the completion of a turnkey facility ready to go on stream. MPS also has a comprehensive network of selling and service points providing customer support on a global scale. With its head office in Lichtenvoorde, Netherlands, the company has a staff of over 300 worldwide.

## **BHF Private Equity**

BHF Private Equity GmbH is a private equity business focusing on investments in medium-sized businesses. Its head office is based in Frankfurt am Main. BHF Private Equity invests largely in non-quoted companies and provides solutions for succession issues, spin-offs from larger groups or growth capital opportunities. A creative financing solution is tailored for each individual situation in which the companies involved find themselves. In general BHF Private Equity participates by way of a majority stake, although minority participations are also considered. BHF Private Equity investments always also comprise an element of management participation in the equity of the business.

The BHF Private Equity fund was established in September 2001 with a volume of 305 million euro. The fund is managed by the independent BHF Private Equity GmbH, which currently has a team of seven. The four owner/managers of BHF Private Equity GmbH each have at least 10 years relevant investment experience in the private equity market.

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