



Media release
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SFS and HECO enter a strategic partnership

SFS and HECO, a leading German supplier of fastening solutions for structural timberwork, have entered a strategic partnership. Thanks to their complementary offerings, they are now able to provide customers with a much broader range of products and services while benefiting from operational synergies. SFS is acquiring a minority interest in HECO under the partnership agreement.

HECO (Ludwig Hettich GmbH & Co. KG) and the Construction division of SFS Group AG are active in the structural timberwork market and both have a reputation for top quality and innovative products. Bringing together their two largely complementary product ranges will allow them to serve their customers better and thereby strengthen their respective market positions. Close collaboration will enable them to also take advantage of manufacturing synergies and strengthen their competitive profile. It will have no negative effects on the employment levels at the various company sites.

HECO is headquartered in Schramberg, Germany, and is a pioneer in the development and manufacture of innovative fasteners. The company achieves with about 230 people a turnover of approximately EUR 35 million and has two manufacturing sites: At company headquarters in Schramberg and in Campia Turzii, Rumania.

As part of the partnership agreement, SFS acquires - subject to approval by the relevant competition authorities - a 30% interest in HECO via a capital increase. The proceeds from the share issue will be spent on projects to improve competitiveness and accelerate growth.

About SFS Group

SFS Group is organised into three business segments Engineered Components, Fastening Systems and Distribution & Logistics which represent the three business models. In the **Engineered Components** segment, SFS partners with customers to develop and manufacture customer-specific precision formed components, fastening solutions and assemblies. The segment operates in the Automotive, Electronics and Industrial divisions and sells its products under the SFS intec and Unisteel brands. In the **Fastening Systems** segment, consisting of the Construction and the Riveting divisions, SFS develops, manufactures and markets application-specific mechanical fastening systems under the SFS intec (Construction) and GESIPA (Riveting) brands. In the **Distribution & Logistics** segment with the SFS unimarket brand, SFS is a leading provider of fasteners, tools and architectural hardware as well as innovative logistics solutions in Switzerland. SFS Group is a global player with manufacturing sites and distribution companies at 72 locations in 24 countries around the world. Sales in business year 2014 amounted to CHF 1.383 bn and the work force numbered approximately 8,300.

For further information visit www.sfs.biz



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