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IMPERIAL Group acquires LEHNERING

IMPERIAL Holdings Ltd. is announcing the takeover of LEHNERING Holding GmbH. The acquisition is subject to merger clearance by the European Commission. The South African IMPERIAL Group will thus be expanding both its market presence and its portfolio of services in Europe.

“With this strategic acquisition we intend to further enhance our market presence in Europe. In particular, LEHNERING’s prominent position in warehousing and distribution for the chemicals industry represents a logical complement to our spectrum of services,” explained Gerhard Riemann, Executive Director of IMPERIAL Holdings Ltd., in Duisburg today.

The LEHNERING Group generates around eighty percent of its revenues through services to chemical industry customers. The corporate group specialises in transporting chemical and steel products via road and inland waterways. Its Distribution Logistics & Services division constitutes an excellent addition to IMPERIAL’s product portfolio. This segment includes a large number of warehouses from which chemical products are shipped. The Chemical Manufacturing Services division, which produces chemical substances to customer order, rounds off the company’s offerings for the chemical industry.

“The takeover by the IMPERIAL Group offers LEHNERING with its long-standing tradition sustained and reliable prospects. For our customers and employees this means we will enhance our global presence in the future and be able to offer an even broader range of services,” states Cees van Gent, CEO of the LEHNERING Group.

“Holding true to our corporate philosophy, we want the company’s brand name “LEHNERING” to be continued under the IMPERIAL umbrella just as soon as the European Commission has signalled its consent,” Riemann added.

The LEHNERING Group currently employs a staff of about 2,700 and achieves total operating sales of about 550 million euros in its Shipping Logistics & Services, Road Logistics & Services, Distribution Logistics & Services and Chemical Manufacturing Services divisions.

IMPERIAL Logistics International GmbH, also located in Duisburg, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the South African company IMPERIAL Holdings Ltd., and is responsible for coordinating and steering all international logistics activities pursued by the IMPERIAL Holdings Group outside Africa.

Affiliated operations include four leading logistics companies: IMPERIAL Reederei, a leader in inland shipping; the contract logistics provider



Panopa, which focuses on automotive, steel and spare parts logistics; the neska Group, operating numerous terminals for container and bulk cargo transshipment; and Brouwer Shipping & Chartering, a specialist in chartering space on ocean-going vessels.

IMPERIAL Holdings Ltd., a South African corporation, is a publicly traded company specialising in the automobile retail business, car rentals, tourism and logistics. The group employs a total of about forty thousand persons and most recently achieved annual revenues of some 6.8 billion euros.

“The acquisition of the LEHNKERING Group will boost staffing at IMPERIAL Europe to about 6,200 and operating sales to more than 1.4 billion euros,” Riemann concluded.

The M&A advisors for this transaction were Lazard, Commerzbank, ABSA and the legal advisor was TaylorWessing.

Address comments and questions to:

Gerhard Riemann
Executive Director
IMPERIAL Holdings Ltd.
Logistics Division
Kasteelstrasse 2
47119 Duisburg
Germany
Phone: +49 203 8005-213
Fax: +49 203 8005-232
riemann@imperial-international.com
www.imperial.co.za