

Press release: New partners in important business areas

HOCHDORF delivers organic infant formula to China

Hochdorf, 12 March 2010 – The demand for HOCHDORF infant formula continues to increase. For the first time, HOCHDORF Nutricare AG is now producing and exporting organic infant formula. The food stuffs group has also agreed on a co-operation with the company Bühler AG in Uzwil. And the Board of Directors has decided that the dividend will remain the same: CHF 3 per share.

For the first time, HOCHDORF Nutricare AG is exporting organic infant formula to the Chinese market. The products have been ordered by Hutchison Hain Organic (Hong Kong) Ltd. This continues the Nutricare expansion into the Chinese market, where organic produce is now increasingly in demand. The construction of the new spray tower system in Sulgen provides the HOCHDORF food stuffs group with significantly greater capacity to produce infant formula from the end of March of this year. "We are proud to produce organic infant formula for Hutchison Hain," says Michael de Ruiter, Managing Director of HOCHDORF Nutricare AG. "It proves that we have built up an excellent reputation in just a short time." De Ruiter is convinced the company will register a strong growth in turnover this year because demand for Swiss-made infant formula is constantly increasing.

Research into milk powder for chocolate

The HOCHDORF group has agreed a development co-operation with Bühler AG in Uzwil. Its subsidiary, HOCHDORF Swiss Milk AG, has a strategic focus on the development and marketing of milk powder to produce chocolate. Bühler AG in Uzwil (with a turnover in 2009 of approximately CHF 1.8 billion and 7,660 employees worldwide as of 31.12.2008), is a world leader in plant construction for chocolate production. The two companies want to join forces to expand their respective areas of expertise and provide an even better service to chocolate producers worldwide. Werner Schweizer, Managing Director of HOCHDORF Swiss Milk AG, summarises the spirit of the agreement: "We want to develop milk powder and manufacturing processes together so that chocolate can be produced more effectively, making it better and tastier." Schweizer continues: "We are assuming that newly-developed milk powder can considerably improve the plant performance by being matched to a specific plant. As a Swiss producer of specialised milk powders, we want to work with the leading global specialist in plant construction for chocolate production to provide our customers with new options." Schweizer is expecting the first development results during the course of this year.

Board of Directors recommends unchanged dividend

At its recent meeting, the HOCHDORF Group's Board of Directors decided to recommend an unchanged dividend of CHF 3 per share (nominal value CHF 10) to the AGM on 7 May 2010. Chairman of the Board of Directors, Hans-Rudolf Schurter, explains the decision by citing operational improvements and bright prospects for the future. The precise figures for the 2009 business year will be published at the annual media conference on 7 April 2010.

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The HOCHDORF Group, based in Hochdorf, achieved a consolidated gross turnover of CHF 360.8 million in 2009. It is one of the leading foodstuff companies in Switzerland, employing 329 full-time staff as of 31.12.2009. Made from natural ingredients such as milk and wheat germ, HOCHDORF products have been contributing to our health and wellbeing since 1895 – from babies to senior citizens. Our customers include the food industry, the retail industry, bakeries and the catering trade. Our products are sold in over 80 countries. The HOCHDORF group is listed on the Bern stock exchange.

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