

Press Release: HOCHDORF Group strengthens its position in Cereals & Ingredients

## HOCHDORF takes over German wheat germ processor

*Hochdorf, 26 November 2014* – The HOCHDORF Group has signed an agreement to acquire **Marbacher Ölmühle GmbH** in Marbach, Germany. This acquisition is to be seen in the context of the Group's strategic development in Cereals & Ingredients. The acquisition is expected to be completed on 1 December 2014. The purchase price will remain undisclosed.

The HOCHDORF Group began working in cereal specialities with its 2003 takeover of Multiforsa AG with particular focus on the wheat germ products sold under the VIOGERM® brand. Production and processing of healthy VIOGERM® wheat germ and VIOGERM® wheat germ oil were transferred to the Hochdorf site in 2010. In the 2013 business year, Cereals & Ingredients achieved turnover of around CHF 20 million and sales of approximately 4,500 tonnes of products.

### Strengthening the VIOGERM® wheat germ business

With the takeover of Marbacher Ölmühle GmbH, the HOCHDORF Group is strengthening its Cereals & Ingredients business. The company is widening its operations in the area of cereals, focussing on organic quality in particular, as well as extending its ingredients portfolio. The takeover also facilitates market activities both in the EU and on the wider international market. "The acquisition is equally important for developing our future children's food business," says Thomas Eisenring, CEO of HOCHDORF Holding Ltd. "The takeover will be financed from our own resources," explains the CEO.

The acquisition of Marbacher Ölmühle is subject to the usual closing conditions and is expected to be completed on 1 December 2014.

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### About Marbacher Ölmühle GmbH

Marbacher Ölmühle GmbH was founded in 1899 and achieved turnover of around EUR 10 million in 2013. The 3000m<sup>2</sup> new plant was completed in 2013 and produces oils and coproducts from wheat germ, rapeseed, sunflower and nuts. Marbacher Ölmühle is a leading producer of organic quality goods. The company has a staff of 15.

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The HOCHDORF Group, based in Hochdorf, achieved consolidated gross sales revenue of CHF 376.1 million in 2013. It is one of the leading foodstuff companies in Switzerland, employing 362 staff as of 31.12.13 (338 full-time staff). Made from natural ingredients such as milk, whey and wheat germ, HOCHDORF products have been contributing to our health and wellbeing since 1895 – from babies to senior citizens. Its customers include the food industry and the wholesale and retail sectors. Its products are sold in over 70 countries. The shares are traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange in Zurich (ISIN CH0024666528).

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