



PRESS RELEASE

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Axfood increases its ownership in Spar Finland

Axfood AB (publ) has by the time of expiration of the redemption offer period obtained a total of 69.29% of the share capital and total of 75.25% of the votes in Spar Finland Oyj.

The Redemption Offer was launched on 1 October 2001 and expired on 1 November 2001. The redemption price was EUR 27.00 both for A and K shares. During this period acceptances representing 47,218 A shares and 30,400 K shares were received. In combination with earlier owned and acquired shares Axfood's ownership amounts to a total of 357,715 A-shares and 429,657 K-shares representing 69.29% of the shares and 75.25% of the votes in Spar Finland.

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Axfood in brief

Axfood is one of the biggest listed companies in the food retail business in the Nordic market. The company operates in food wholesale and retail trade through a number of supermarket chains, featuring brand names such as Hemköp, Axfood Lågpris, Spar, Vivo, and Tempo.

Axfood's total net sales in year 2000 were approximately SEK 30 billion. The company employs approximately 8,600 full-timer employees. It has approximately 700 stores in Sweden, of which 250 are wholly or partly owned, and, through Spar Finland, 325 stores in Finland, of which 88 are wholly owned by Spar Finland. The Axfood share is listed on the A-list of the Stockholm Stock Exchange. The largest shareholder is the Axel Johnson AB group with approximately 45 percent of the shares.

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