



Communications and Public Affairs
Tel. +46 40 16 50 00, Fax +46 40 15 91 80
info@hq.scancem.com or ir@hq.scancem.com
www.scancem.com

PRESS RELEASE

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Scancem sells Finnsementti and Lohja Rudus operations to CRH

The Scancem Group has signed a binding agreement with CRH plc, the Irish international building materials group, to divest Finnsementti Oy Ab and Lohja Rudus Oy Ab for SEK 3,550 million. The transaction is expected to close before the end of July 1999 subject to the necessary regulatory approvals. In 1998, Finnsementti and Lohja Rudus had combined profit before tax of approximately SEK 360 million and sales of SEK 2,200 million. The capital gain for Scancem will be approximately SEK 1.7 billion before tax.

Finnsementti operates only in Finland while Lohja Rudus also is active in Estonia, Latvia, Poland and the St. Petersburg area in Russia.

On May 3 1999, Heidelberger Zement and CBR announced an agreement with Skanska and Aker RGI to purchase all of their shareholding in Scancem. Heidelberger Zement and CBR had furthermore agreed to launch a tender offer of the remaining outstanding Scancem shares after closing on the same conditions.

The final price that Heidelberger Zement and CBR will pay for Scancem shares has been adjusted to SEK 395,37 per A share and SEK 376,31 per B share (after the payment under the terms of the contract with Skanska and Aker RGI of the proposed SEK 12 dividend).

CRH plc. manufactures and supplies a broad range of building products from primary materials as well as manufactured products. The turnover for 1998 amounted to SEK 47 billion and the number of employees is 30.000.

Today, Scancem is Europe's sixth largest cement and building materials company and the Group is strongly positioned in mainly the Baltic Sea and North Sea regions. The Group is a leading player in the international cement trading market with operations in the U.S., West Africa and Asia. Scancem is active in approximately 30 countries. Sales in 1998 amounted to SEK 16.5 billion and the number of employees is approximately 11,000. Scancem is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange.