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Kockums Industrier divests manufacture of wind power pylons to Enercon of Germany

An agreement has been signed today between Saab's wholly owned subsidiary Kockums Industrier (KIAB) in Malmö and the German wind energy group Enercon, by which Enercon will take over KIAB's manufacture of wind power pylons. The divestment will affect about half of KIAB's 215 employees and is a step in the structuring of Saab's operations after the acquisition of Celsius.

The sale will not affect the income of the Saab Group and will have only a marginal effect on the balance sheet and cash flow. Manufacture of wind power pylons generates almost SEK 100 million each year.

"Enercon's purchase is an acknowledgement that they have appreciated the quality of the 140 pylons we have delivered so far and shows that they intend to continue with the base we have built up in Malmö, which means excellent prospects for the future," says Thomas Abrahamsson, President of Kockums Industrier.

Enercon is one of the world's leading suppliers of energy converters for wind power. The group has its head office in Aurich near the town of Emden.

Enercon already has an office in Fosie outside Malmö and KIAB has been an important subcontractor of wind power pylons to Enercon since the beginning of 1999. In conjunction with the divestment, the parties have signed a rental agreement for that part of KIAB's industrial premises which is affected by the divested operation.

Enercon started manufacture of wind power equipment in 1984 and is now the largest company in this field in Germany and one of the largest in the world, with production units in Aurich, Magdeburg, Brazil and India. Sales units operate in 15 countries. Enercon has total sales of about DEM 1 billion and about 2500 employees.

Saab is northern Europe's leading high technology company, mainly active in the defense, aviation and space industry, and offers advanced products and systems based on sophisticated information technology. The business areas within Saab are Informatics, Aerospace, Dynamics, Technical Support and Services, Space and Aviation Services.

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