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Press release

# Bong joins new international alliance

Six worldwide leaders in the envelope industry have joined together in a strategic alliance called the International Envelope Coalition for the purpose of enhancing the products and services available to the global marketplace. The six companies are Tension Envelope Corporation, Bong Ljungdahl AB, Groupe SAS Hamelin, Vigamil S.A.C.e.I., King Corporation, and E. S. Wigg & Son. These organizations have worked with one another over time and are now formalizing their relationship.

These companies have formed an alliance that includes over thirty manufacturing plants, and covers five continents, North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia:

- Tension Envelope Corporation operates in the USA (with subsidiaries in China, Taiwan, and Malaysia),
- Bong operates in the Nordic countries (also the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, and Russia),
- Hamelin is in France (also the United Kingdom, Germany, and Spain),
- Vigamil is in South America,
- King Corporation is in Japan
- E.S. Wigg & Son is in Australia.

The Coalition is uniting in a worldwide initiative to offer customers access to all six companies' proprietary products and services through a consolidated global supply chain. There is increasing demand by purchasers of envelopes and associated products for a simplified and streamlined supplier network to meet their business needs related to mailing, packaging, and distribution of information, as well as sales and marketing materials.

The benefits of the International Envelope Coalition are to:

- Offer customers complete and comprehensive mailing solutions on a global basis.
- Serve as a single source so any customer or prospect can easily gain access for the manufacture of their envelope and packaging needs anywhere in the world.
- Provide access to shared expertise of a cooperative mix of companies, holding the exclusive rights to manufacturing processes and product innovations.
- Promote the worldwide value and volume of mail and mail-related business goals.

Each of the Coalition members has a unique profile of capabilities and complimentary geographical locations, and as a unit they offer a competitive advantage. Additionally, the companies will share and work collaboratively on product research and development, with emphasis on the improvement of machine technologies and operational efficiencies.

The establishment of the International Envelope Coalition will provide unprecedented opportunities for envelope and packaging users to access a farreaching range of manufacturing, sales, and distribution services to enhance their business operations and serve and supply their own customers across the globe.

#### **About Tension**

Tension Envelope Corporation was founded in 1886 in Kansas City, Missouri. Today the company provides mailing and packaging envelopes and fulfillment packaging systems to businesses nationwide from seven plants with over 1,000 employees in the U.S.A. Tension also has manufacturing facilities and operations in China, Malaysia and Taiwan

# **About Vigamil**

Vigamil S.A.C.e I was founded in 1940 in Santiago, Chile.

For years Vigamil has been the leader in mailing envelopes manufacturing in Chile and also started operations in Peru in 1998.

Vigamil has two plants in Chile and one in Peru, with over 250 employees in the three plants.

### **About Bong**

Bong was founded in 1737 in Sweden and is today one of Europe's leading envelope and packaging companies, offering customers solutions for distribution and packaging of information, advertisements and lightweight goods. The Group has annual sales of approximately Euro 220 million and some 1,200 employees in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, UK, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Russia. Bong is a publicly listed company and its shares are quoted on the OMX Nordic Stock Exchange Stockholm.

#### **About Hamelin**

GROUPE HAMELIN is the leading European manufacturer of books and pads, filing products, envelope and desk lamps with a total turnover of approximately € 800 million. It employs about 4,000 people, mainly in Europe, as well as USA, South America, Australia and Asia. GROUPE HAMELIN products are sold under the CANSON, OXFORD, BANTEX AND ELBA brands.

# **About King**

King Corporation was founded in 1932 in Nagoya (located in central Japan).

King Corporation has approximately 500 employees, in 3 manufacturing plants and 14 sales offices in Japan. King manufactures and sells office paper products (envelopes, visiting cards, calendars, etcetera) and sells to the printing and stationery markets.

### About Wigg & Son

The company E. S. Wigg & Son is a success borne over 150 years, currently operated by the sixth generation and descendents of Edgar Smith Wigg.

Established in 1849 (Australia's 21<sup>st</sup> oldest company), Wigg & Son has been a leader in Australia with new innovative envelope products to suit an array of customers' markets. These markets include direct mail, photographic packaging, fundraising, financial and insurance, and general office requirements.

Time has witnessed a constant evolution of unique products and services. Products include the reusable envelope, CD and one-piece mailers, bangtail envelopes for fundraising, and creative designed involvement envelopes for the direct mail industry.

Expanding from its original Adelaide manufacturing base, Wigg & Son has grown with sales offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

For additional information about this press release, please contact Anders Davidsson, VD President and CEO of Bong Ljungdahl AB. Telephone (switchboard) +46 (0)44 20 70 00, (direct) +46 (0)44 20 70 80, (mobile) +46 (0)70 545 70 80.

Bong is one of Europe's leading envelope and packaging companies and offers solutions for distribution and packaging of information, advertising materials and lightweight goods. Two strong growth areas in the Group are the new ProPac packaging concept and Russia, where Bong has recently established its own manufacturing facility and sales organisation. The Group has annual sales of approximately SEK 2 billion and some 1,200 employees in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Poland and Russia. Bong has a strong market position, particularly in Northern Europe, and the Group sees attractive opportunities for further expansion and development. Bong is a publicly listed company and its shares are quoted on the OMX Nordic Stock Exchange Stockholm (the Stockholm Stock Exchange).