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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Scancem's sale of Lohja Rudus and Finnsementti now finalized**

The Irish building materials group CRH on Wednesday finalized the acquisition from Scancem of the Finnish companies Finnsementti and Lohja Rudus, following the receipt of the necessary regulatory approvals.

The sales price is SEK 3,550 million and Scancem's capital gain will be approximately SEK 1,7 billion before tax.

Finnsementti is Finland's sole cement producer. Lohja Rudus manufactures and markets mainly ready-mixed concrete and aggregates and is active – apart from in Finland – also in Estonia, Latvia, Poland and the St Petersburg area in Russia.

CRH plc manufactures and supplies a broad range of building materials. The turnover for 1998 amounted to approximately SEK 47 billion and the number of employees is about 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.

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