
Press Release

Stockholm, 27 June 2006

ABN AMRO Capital confirms buy-and-build strategy for Loparex with acquisition of Douglas-Hanson

ABN AMRO Capital, the private equity business of ABN AMRO, announces that their portfolio company Loparex have agreed to acquire Douglas-Hanson Company, a leading supplier of film and paper-based release liners, from its company founder. ABN AMRO Capital already has a majority stake in Loparex and this is the first step of a planned buy-and-build strategy. Loparex is the leading international producer of release liners for adhesive products. The two businesses will be merged following this acquisition.

Since ABN AMRO Capital acquired Loparex in September 2005 it has aimed to significantly improve its position within the high growth and high margin film segment. The acquisition of Douglas-Hanson provides a strong strategic fit with Loparex. The two companies have overlapping technologies and as a combined entity will be in a position to improve efficiencies, waste reduction and accelerate new product introductions.

Douglas-Hanson is the leader of the growing US film based release liner industry. The company operates out of its facility in Hammond, Wisconsin, USA. Douglas-Hanson converts paper and film substrates to release paper and film, as well as substrates for coating, printing, packaging and other industrial use. The company has distinguished itself as a premier supplier of films with one of the industry's widest selections of polyester film.

The combined business is estimated to have a combined turnover in 2006 in excess of EUR 400 million. It has strong positions in North America and Europe and a growing market share in Asia.

Johan Bjurström, Managing Partner of ABN AMRO Capital's Nordic team, said: "The Douglas-Hanson investment is an important step in developing Loparex and we are clearly very pleased to have been able to bring this acquisition to completion."

ABN AMRO Capital will own 93% of the combined business, with the balance owned by Loparex's management. Douglas-Hanson will be integrated into Loparex Inc and be run as a production unit within the US operation. Jack Taylor, CEO of Loparex Inc will continue to run the merged business. Sampo Bank and OKO Bank provided the senior debt for the transaction.

Pentti Kallio, President & CEO of Loparex Group, said: "We see an excellent fit between Douglas-Hanson and Loparex and are very pleased that ABN AMRO Capital have enabled us to deliver on our plan to further strengthen our market position and accelerate growth of both revenue and earnings."

Chris Hanson, founder and Chairman of Douglas-Hanson, said: "Being part of an international organisation like Loparex will allow us to further strengthen our operations and build on the expertise that we gained over the years. This buy-out is an important step forward in the history of Douglas-Hanson and I am looking forward to working together with Jack and his team here in the US."

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About ABN AMRO Capital

ABN AMRO

Netherlands-based ABN AMRO is a leading international bank with total assets of EUR 975.1 bln (as at 31 March 2006). It has over 3,500 branches in more than 60 countries and territories, and has a staff of about 105,000 full-time equivalents worldwide. ABN AMRO is listed on Euronext and the New York Stock Exchange.

ABN AMRO Capital

ABN AMRO Capital is the global private equity business of ABN AMRO, with teams operating in seven countries worldwide (the Netherlands, UK, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden and Australia). Total funds under management by ABN AMRO Capital (on 31 March 2006) were EUR 2.7 billion, of which EUR 234 million of capital was provided by international investors in ABN AMRO Capital managed funds in the UK and France. In 2006, ABN AMRO Capital has so far completed 6 European buy-outs, with an aggregate deal value of c. EUR 630 million, and realised 5 exits.

Loparex

Loparex Group is the leading supplier in the global release liner market. It has strong positions in the Americas and Europe, and a growing share in Asia Pacific with operations in China and India. The Company offers the widest range of available technologies and concentrates on developing high quality release liners for the graphic arts, label, medical, hygiene, tape, industrial and composites segments. The company has production facilities in the US, UK, the Netherlands, Finland and China. Loparex employs approximately 1,400 employees.

Douglas-Hanson

Established in 1973, Douglas-Hanson specialises in silicone release liners, extrusion coating, blown film extruding and converting various film and paper substrates. The company provides its products to a myriad of industrial and commercial customers, including prominent blue chip firms. The company operates out of a state-of-the-art 311,000 square-foot facility located in Hammond, Wisconsin. The company employs 180 individuals.