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### **Press Release**

# goetzpartners advised Georg Fischer in the sale of Georg Fischer Verkehrstechnik to SAF-HOLLAND

Georg Fischer AG & Co in Singen (Germany), a subsidiary of Georg Fischer AG, Schaffhausen (Switzerland), has entered into a definite agreement to sell all its shares in Georg Fischer Verkehrstechnik GmbH, the Singen-based supplier of components to the international trucking industry, to the SAF-HOLLAND S.A. (Luxembourg). The company is being sold within the context of refocusing on its core business. The transaction is subject to the approval by the relevant competition authorities.

goetzpartners Corporate Finance acted as sole financial advisor to Georg Fischer AG in Schaffhausen/ Switzerland for this divestiture process.

With the divestment of Georg Fischer Verkehrstechnik, Georg Fischer is pursuing a strategy to focus its automotive business unit on its core iron and light metal casting to the automotive industry. The business will continue under the new owner with the existing management and the 80 employees.

Through the transaction, SAF-HOLLAND will strengthen its position in the European market for fifth wheel couplings, and also become an important supplier to the European truck industry. Georg Fischer Verkehrstechnik will continue its business under the new ownership, benefitting from SAF-HOLLAND's global network and cooperation with experienced partners.

The transaction is planned to be financed by SAF-HOLLAND with a mix of debt and additional equity. In this context, the company has decided in favor of a capital increase, excluding the buying options of existing shareholders. Pamplona Capital Management, owning 34.5% of the shares of SAF-HOLLAND, has guaranteed to apply for all new shares which they intend to place with institutional investors in Europe and North America to increase the free float.

#### About Georg Fischer

Georg Fischer is focused on its three core businesses GF Automotive, GF Piping Systems and GF AgieCharmilles. Founded in 1802, the company is headquartered in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, and has over 140 locations worldwide, including 50 production facilities. With some 13,000 employees, it generated annual sales of €2.7 billion in 2007. Georg Fischer is listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange.

#### About Georg Fischer Verkehrstechnik

Georg Fischer Verkehrstechnik, based in Singen/ Germany, manufactures and sells fifth wheel couplings and Trilex wheels for the commercial vehicle sector. In 2007, it generated sales of more than € 60 million and currently employs 80 people.

## About SAF-HOLLAND

With more than € 800 million in sales and approximately 3,000 employees, SAF-HOLLAND S.A. is one of the worldwide leading manufacturers and suppliers of premium product systems and components primarily for trailers as well as trucks, buses, and recreational vehicles. The product range encompasses axle and suspension systems, fifth wheels, couplers, kingpins, and landing legs. SAF-HOLLAND customers include the majority of large trailer and truck producers all over the world. The products are sold to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and Original Equipment Suppliers (OESs) through a global service and distribution network as well as through aftermarket channels that target end users and service garages. SAF-HOLLAND has therefore established itself as one of the

few manufacturers in its sector that is internationally positioned with an extensive product range and a broad service network. SAF-HOLLAND S.A. has been listed in the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange since July 2007.

#### About goetzpartners

goetzpartners is a leading European independent corporate advisory firm, offering M&A (Mergers & Acquisitions) advisory, management consulting and interim management services. The group offers an innovative consulting approach with tailor-made solutions that are successfully implemented together with its clients. goetzpartners has offices in Munich, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, London, Paris, Madrid and Prague and has co-operations in New York, Tampa, Bangalore, Mumbai, Moscow and Budapest.

goetzpartners Corporate Finance provides M&A advisory services. goetzpartners Management Consultants is focused on strategy, operational excellence, marketing and sales, restructuring and strategic due diligence. goetzpartners Interim Managers supports investors in the management of their investment portfolios and succession planning.

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