

Health Care company spin-off going to plan

- **Holding company founded for Health Care Division**
- **Matthew Robin, CEO Ypsomed, elected to Board of new Health Care company**
- **Further dates in schedule**

Wattwil, 3 January 2006. The Gurit-Heberlein Group's Health Care Division, which is due to be listed as an independent company on the Swiss stock exchange in summer 2006, continues its march towards autonomy as planned. A new holding company for the Group's health care operations was founded at the end of last year under a name already established internally within the Group, Medisize Holding AG. Matthew Robin, CEO of Ypsomed Holding AG, joins the Board, which continues to be made up of the existing directors of Gurit-Heberlein AG. The appointment means the Board will now have a recognized industry specialist among its ranks.

Preparations for the division of the Gurit-Heberlein Group into two independent companies are proceeding according to plan. As announced at the end of August 2005, Gurit-Heberlein's existing Health Care Division is due for a listing on the SWX Swiss Exchange as an independent company during the course of the summer. A holding company by the name of Medisize Holding AG, Wattwil SG, was founded in December 2005. The name Medisize is known throughout the Group as a company name and is familiar to the market as a protected brand name. The new Health Care company specializes in two separate product lines: first, it manufactures a complete range of consumables for dentists and dental laboratories under the Coltène/Whaledent brand; second, it produces airway management products for the medical profession under the Medisize brand. Apart from this, Medisize is an important OEM, liaising closely with the international medical and pharmaceutical industries on development and production. Jerry Sullivan, up to now CEO of the Gurit Den-



tal Care activities, is appointed CEO of the new health care company, Medisize Holding AG.

Health Care Board strengthened

As outlined at the end of August 2005, the Board of the new Medisize Holding AG is being extended to enable the existing directors to benefit from the experience of an eminently qualified industry specialist. Matthew Robin, CEO of Ypsomed Holding AG, is an ideal complement to the existing Board. Mr. Robin is a British citizen and has been with Ypsomed since 1998 (or: used to be with Disetronic). Prior to this, the graduate chemist (Imperial College, London University) was responsible for production, marketing, sales and general management with Lonza AG in Switzerland and the USA. Mr. Robin is also a member of the Advisory Board with BV Holding AG.

Further procedure

Preparations for the separation of Gurit-Heberlein into two companies are proceeding according to plan:

- The next ordinary general meeting, which will give formal approval to the planned separation of the company, will be held on 12 April 2006.
- The new Health Care company, Medisize Holding AG, is due to be listed during the second half of June.
- Gurit-Heberlein will publish key figures from its financial statements for 2005 at the beginning of March 2006.
- Half-year reports for the two independent companies will be published in August.

About Gurit-Heberlein

Gurit-Heberlein specializes in Chemical and Synthetics Technology. The Group's two existing Divisions, *Industrial Applications* and *Health Care*, are to be made financially independent of each other in the course of 2006, retroactive to 1 January 2006, and will continue to be run as two public companies.

The *Health Care* Division is active in two main areas: the production of impression and filling materials, pins, and a wide range of supplementary products for dentists and dental laboratories; and the clean-room manufacture of disposable medical and pharmaceutical OEM products as well as airway management products for the Medisize brand.

Gurit's *Industrial Applications* Division is one of the world's leading suppliers of advanced composite materials to the wind energy, aircraft and aerospace, and marine and automotive industries, as well as for civil engineering applications.

For further information: Bernhard Schweizer, Group Communications
Tel. 0041-71-987-1010