
P R E S S R E L E A S E 7 J u n e 2 0 0 5

Lindab acquires Astron

Ratos's portfolio company Lindab has today signed an agreement regarding the acquisition of all shares in the Luxembourg-based company Astron SA. The purchase price (debt free) amounts to SEK 685m. The seller is the American corporation Parker Hannifin. The acquisition is financed from Lindab's cash and available credit lines.

Astron is Europe's leading manufacturer of pre-fabricated steel buildings for commercial applications. The company offers a complete system including components for the erection of industrial and other commercial buildings. The production of buildings for storage and similar applications is increasingly performed by pre-fabrication, and the share of steel commercial buildings is increasing. The company's sales in Central and Eastern Europe has been growing strongly in recent years and now amounts to approximately 50% of turnover. The company has 650 employees.

Lindab is a leading manufacturer of building materials made from sheet metal in the two business areas Ventilation and Profile. Today's transaction strengthens the business area Profile within the strategically important segment Building Systems and Lindab further enhances its position in the important growth markets in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2002 Lindab Building Systems acquired the European operations of the American company Butler, based in Hungary. This unit has been growing profitably since.

- Astron is a well-managed and profitable company, and the acquisition creates substantial synergies in production, marketing and distribution. Additionally, the market coverages of the both companies are very complementary, comments Kjell Åkesson, CEO of Lindab.

Total turnover is approximately SEK 1 bn and the operating profit (EBITA) during a 12 month's period amounts to SEK 85m.

The acquisition of Astron is subject to the approval of relevant competition authorities.

Ratos's ownership share in Lindab is 48%, and the consolidated book value in the Ratos group was SEK 1,150m at 31 March 2005. Ratos will not invest any capital in connection with today's transaction.

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Financial calendar from Ratos:

Interim report January-June 2005

24 August 2005

Interim report January-September 2005

11 November 2005

Ratos is a listed private equity company. The business concept is to maximise shareholder value over time by investing in, developing and divesting primarily unlisted companies. Ratos thus offers stock market players a unique investment opportunity. The equity of Ratos's investments is approximately SEK 10 billion. Ratos's holdings include Alimak Hek, Atle Industri, Bluegarden, BTJ InfoData, Camfil, DIAB, Elitfönster, Gadelius, GS-Hydro, Haendig, Haglöfs, HL Display, Hägglunds Drives, Industri Kapital, Lindab, LRT/Tornet, Overseas Telecom and Superfos.