

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Franke acquires the Faber Group

**Aarburg, Switzerland, 31 May 2005 – Yesterday Franke signed an agreement to purchase all the remaining shares of Finfaber S.p.A, the holding company of the Faber Group in Fabriano, Italy. This acquisition will strengthen the Kitchen Systems business significantly by the addition of high quality extractor hoods. Franke had already acquired a 49% stake in the Faber Group in August 2004.**

The Faber Group is one of the three world leaders in extractor hoods or cookers. In 2004, Faber generated consolidated sales worth more than CHF 300 million and has some 1,500 employees in 14 companies around the world (11 production plants and a further 5 distribution companies). Manufacturing facilities are located in Italy, Turkey, Spain, France, Sweden, Russia, India, China and Argentina. Franke regards this acquisition as an important step towards further growth on international markets, benefiting from the multiple synergies of the two groups. The Faber Group will be integrated into the Franke Kitchen Systems Division.

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*The **Franke** Group is a global provider of products, services and custom solutions for a wide range of applications in the household food preparation and catering sectors. Franke, whose holding company is domiciled in Aarburg, Switzerland, has some 5,700 employees around the world, and is firmly established with 73 subsidiaries in 37 countries. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, taps, cooking hobs, ovens, hoods etc. and washroom and sanitary systems) and **Franke Foodservice Systems** (products and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market*

*leaders in their business sectors, exporting to over 100 countries. The activities of Franke also include **Franke Coffee Systems** with a broad product programme of fully-automatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines as well as the technology field and beverage containers. In the financial year 2004, Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,628.0 million.*

*Natascha Widmer  
Franke Corporate Communications  
Tel. +41 62 787 38 69 / +41 79 771 90 73  
Fax. +41 62 787 30 37  
[natascha.widmer@franke.com](mailto:natascha.widmer@franke.com)  
[www.franke.com](http://www.franke.com)*