

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Franke acquires keg business from Spartanburg Stainless Products, Inc., USA**

### **Aarburg, Switzerland, 14 November 2006**

Franke Beverage Containers expands its North American operations by acquiring the beer keg production activities of Spartanburg Stainless Products, Inc., South Carolina, USA. For many years the North American keg market has been successfully served by Franke Beverage Containers through its sales office in California with keg deliveries from its European production facility in Kreuztal, Germany.

By taking over Spartanburg's production Franke Beverage Containers is demonstrating its commitment to the North American brewing industry. This acquisition will give Franke the ability to serve the North American market even better with vastly improved delivery times. In addition, the range of products and services offered to breweries will be extended. Franke also plans to establish a nationwide keg service organization offering comprehensive keg maintenance and keg conversion programs.

Franke Beverage Containers will relocate the keg manufacturing equipment to Ruston, Louisiana, where Franke already produces kitchen sinks. The new keg production will be put into operation during the second quarter of 2007. During the interim period deliveries of kegs to the US market will be supplied by Franke Blefa from Kreuztal, Germany.

Franke Beverage Containers is one of the world's leading manufacturers of kegs for the brewing industry and also offers a dedicated keg service capability in several European countries. With its global presence Franke Beverage Containers delivers in excess of 1 million beer kegs annually to the brewing industry.

Spartanburg Stainless Products, Inc., is a South Carolina based manufacturer of stainless steel products, stamped and welded assemblies serving a variety of industries. Spartanburg Stainless determined to exit the keg business to permit a greater focus on its core business. An affiliate of Spartanburg Stainless, Sharpsville Container Corporation, produces specialty containers for various customers in the food, chemical, biotechnology, medical and pharmaceutical industries at its operation located in Sharpsville, PA.

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***Franke** is a global supplier of products, services and customized solutions in the household and catering food preparation sectors, broadly defined. The **Franke Group**, headquartered in Aarburg, Switzerland, is firmly established with 85 subsidiaries in 41 countries, and has approximately 8,500 employees worldwide. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, tabs, extractor hoods, hobs, ovens) and **Franke Foodservice Systems** (kitchen equipment and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market leaders in their respective segments, with exports to over 100 countries. Further activities of the Franke Group include **Franke Coffee Systems** with a wide range of super automatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines, **Franke Washroom Systems** (washroom and sanitary systems for public and semi-public use), **Franke Beverage Containers** as well as industrial engineering. Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 1,959.0 million in 2005.*



*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)