

PRESS RELEASE**Franke sells the deep fryer manufacturer frifri aro SA to Middleby**

Aarburg, Switzerland, 24 April 2008 – Franke is selling the business operations of the company frifri aro SA in La Neuveville, Switzerland, together with assets and liabilities, to Middleby Switzerland AG, the Swiss subsidiary of Middleby Corporation, USA, within the framework of an asset transfer. This sale is in accordance with the strategic focus of the Franke Group. The approx. 40 employees will be taken over by the new owner.

frifri aro SA in La Neuveville, Switzerland, has signed an agreement with Middleby Switzerland AG concerning the sale of frifri's business operations together with assets and liabilities within the framework of an asset transfer. The approx. 40 employees in Switzerland and Germany are being taken on by Middleby Switzerland AG. The production of professional deep fryers in La Neuveville will be continued, and the "frifri" brand will continue to be marketed around the world.

The sale of frifri is in accordance with the strategic focus of the Franke Group, which is to concentrate on the core activities comprising Franke Kitchen Systems, Franke Foodservice Systems, Franke Coffee Systems, Franke Washroom Systems, and Franke Beverage Systems.

Franke is confident that this sale and the integration of frifri in Middleby represent a beneficial long-term solution.

***Franke** is a global supplier of products, services and tailored solutions for food preparation in homes and in the catering sector in the broadest sense. The Franke Group, with its holding domicile in Aarburg, Switzerland, employs around 13,000 people around the world, and is today anchored in 42 countries with over 80 subsidiaries. The two divisions **Franke Kitchen Systems** (sinks, extraction hoods, taps, cooking hobs, ovens), and **Franke Foodservice Systems** (systems and services for quick service restaurants) are the global market leaders in their fields of business, with exports to over 100 countries. Further activities of the Franke Group comprise **Franke Washroom Systems** (washroom and sanitary systems in the public and semi-public field), **Franke Coffee Systems** with a broad product programme of fully-automatic, professional and semi-professional coffee machines, **Franke Beverage Systems** as well as industrial technology. In the year 2007 Franke generated consolidated sales of CHF 3,021 million.*

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*The **Middleby Corporation** is a global leader in the food-service equipment industry. The company develops, manufactures, markets and services a broad line of equipment used for commercial food cooking, preparation and processing. The company's leading equipment brands serving the commercial foodservice industry include Blodgett®, Blodgett Combi®, Blodgett Range®, Bloomfield Carter Hoffmann®, CTX®, Holman®, Houno®, Jade®, Lang®, MagiKitch'n®, Middleby Marshall®, Nu-Vu®, Pitco Frialator®, Southbend®, Star®, Toastmaster® and Wells®. The company's leading equipment brands serving the food processing industry include Alkar®, MP Equipment®, and RapidPak®.*