

**technotrans extends capacity to accommodate future growth**

*Decision reached on new plant in Gersthofen near Augsburg / new product area of "cleaning systems" as further driving force for growth*

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technotrans, a leading systems supplier of plant for the production of print media and microstructures, is extending its production capacity at its Augsburg base. The Supervisory Board approved investment measures totalling around € 6 million and negotiations with the owner of the real property are well advanced. The new building in Gersthofen, near Augsburg, will accommodate activities for developing the new product area of cleaning systems, as well as the ink supply product area. As a systems supplier to the printing industry, technotrans is accessing this new sub-market that it expects will contribute substantially towards the future growth of the company from mid-way through next year. "We intend to tap the market for cleaning systems with a development of our own. The background negotiations with potential customers have already made very promising progress," declared Heinz Harling, Chairman of the Board of Management of technotrans AG. "This investment will enable us to create a professional operating context for our team of specialists, and we will be able to commence volume production efficiently as soon as the product is launched."

As a systems supplier to the printing industry, technotrans has two production plants in Germany: one at its headquarters in Sassenberg and one at Stadtbergen, near Augsburg. Mid-way through 2004, the group numbered some 600 employees, slightly more than two-thirds of them based in Germany; consolidated revenue is expected to reach € 115 million this year. The future product area of cleaning systems has a worldwide market volume of € 120 to 150 million. For many years now, technotrans has been pursuing the successful strategy of gradually tapping fresh potential for growth through new products, based on the ambition to achieve "more technotrans per printing press". Its aim is to achieve a world market share of at least 50 percent in every product area.

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