

Company announcement no. 1/2013

Gentofte, 4 January 2013

## **Hartmann proposes closure of manufacturing facility in Varkaus, Finland, to strengthen efficiency and profitability**

**With a view to ensuring sustainable and profitable long-term growth in the European business, Hartmann proposes to close its manufacturing facility in Varkaus, Finland. The strategic initiative aims at increasing overall competitiveness and optimising the European production network through reduction of complexity and efficiency improvements. Negotiations with employee representatives are scheduled to commence on 14 January 2013.**

In line with the 'Competitive edge – driving growth' strategy, Hartmann has taken a number of steps to strengthen competitiveness and enhance its customer focus. These efforts have increased overall production efficiency, and the proposed closure of Hartmann's manufacturing facility in Varkaus is not expected to affect European sales volumes.

Hartmann initiates the process of engaging with employee representatives to negotiate the outcome of the proposal and explore alternatives. This is in accordance with prevailing Finnish legal requirements known as YT negotiations, which will go on for a minimum of six weeks. The procedure will concern 45 jobs in Finland.

Hartmann will communicate the outcome of the negotiations in due course.

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