



Press release

Gunnebo, 22 October 2007

Telesteps wins patent dispute

Telesteps, a subsidiary of Gunnebo Industrier, has won a protracted patent dispute with Core Distribution. The European Patent Office has upheld Telesteps's patent for its telescopic ladder.

Telesteps, a subsidiary of Gunnebo Industrier and the innovator and world leader in telescopic ladders, has just won a patent dispute with Core Distribution. In December 2005, Core Distribution objected to Telesteps's European patent and requested that it be rescinded. The basis of the objection was the claim that the invention was not new and that it lacked inventiveness.

After a protracted process, the European Patent Office has upheld Telesteps's patent.

"We are very pleased to have won this protracted patent dispute," says Jonas Netterström, head of the Telescopic business unit and CEO of Telesteps. "We are proud of our invention of telescopic work tools, and the ruling confirms that we are a serious player with our patented and certified products."

The European Patent Office announced its ruling at the close of litigation. A written ruling will be released within a few weeks. After that, the ruling may be appealed against within two months.

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Telesteps AB, which is part of the Telescopic business unit of Gunnebo Industrier AB, develops and markets products that expand from small to large formats either telescopically or in some other simple manner. Telesteps is an innovative, flexible ladder designed and developed in a minimalist tradition to be as simple and efficient as possible. It is an optimum aid for service engineers and assemblers, not to mention making everyday life easier for private consumers. Telesteps's head office is in Tranås, Sweden, and its products are sold in Australia, Europe and Russia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and other Asian countries. For additional information, see www.telesteps.se.

Gunnebo Industrier AB is an international group of industrial companies that is active in 15 countries and has around 50 major distributors/agents worldwide. The group is engaged in the development, manufacture and marketing of chain and lifting components, fastening systems for the building industry, blocks/systems for heavy lifting, non-skid products and telescopic ladders. The business is conducted through the Fastening, Lifting and Technical Products (which comprises the Blocks, Non Skid and Telescopic business units) business areas. Gunnebo Industrier markets well-known products in established segments, and is the leader in each product and/or market area. Annual sales amount to more than SEK 2 billion, and the group has around 1,400 employees. For additional information, see www.gunneboindustries.com.