



CBC Europe strengthens its Healthcare business by acquiring abc dental ag in Switzerland

(Düsseldorf) - January 25, 2017. **CBC Group, a family-owned Japanese corporation, takes over Switzerland-based abc dental ag with effect from 25 January 2017. With this acquisition, CBC Group is complementing its European activities of chemical and optical product distribution along with medical consumables and devices for the dental industry.**

While CBC Group on the global platform has a large portfolio of businesses, for more than 30 years CBC (Europe) GmbH in Düsseldorf - a subsidiary of CBC Co. Ltd. - has been concentrating on EMEA operations. The Group is primarily known for its portfolio of pharmaceutical active ingredients, biological plant protection, chemicals for nutrition and medical products, as well as a forever evolving portfolio of solutions for the buildings and infrastructure markets, including a strong presence in manufacture and supply of high-quality video surveillance solutions. Such systems are taken to market through the group-owned installation subsidiary SEKOTEC GmbH, St. Augustin, alongside traditional supply channels.

CBC Group's Healthcare division is a noteworthy manufacturing and trading business in the pharmaceutical industry. To strengthen its presence in Europe, CBC Group has managed to acquire one of the leading distributors in the dental industry based in Switzerland.

abc dental ag, established in 1998 and headquartered in Schlieren, near Zurich, is a key player in its market segment. Led by the owners, abc dental ag offers unparalleled value to the market through quick and reliable delivery of consumables, as well as practical and efficient dental installations and optimal after-sales service.

Together, CBC Group and abc dental will focus on growing the market in Switzerland by bringing new technologies to the market and providing dental practices an end-to-end value proposition to further simplify operations. With this acquisition abc dental ag can now leverage on the global expertise of a large corporation with Japanese ethos to further grow the business and manage new technologies from the highly-innovative German start-up market.

Gilbert Merki, Partner and Head of Technologies of abc dental ag, noted: "The acquisition will no doubt lead to further growth. As founders, it was paramount that we found a reliable partner who provided us a competitive edge with an interesting technology portfolio to take us to the next level. The acquisition has no negative impact on our location or the staff."

Thomas Kuhn, Partner and Head of Marketing, added "with CBC, we have a much more attractive portfolio for our customers. In addition to the proven and qualified products, abc dental will now be able to exclusively offer new solutions for non-chemical disinfection in dental practices, new imaging procedures and innovative dental products from Japanese research units. In the future we can offer a very broad spectrum of products and services to our customers. "

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Dr. Frank Höfer, COO of CBC Europe since May 1, 2016, stated "CBC Group is currently building a new portfolio in Europe. It focuses on the marketing of pioneering technologies from the European start-up scene and offering these start-ups CBC Group's worldwide sales network to garner growth. With this acquisition, we are able to introduce some of our compelling and sustainable technologies faster into a dynamic and evolving market in Europe on our own. Our vision with abc dental is to create a full-service provider for the dental practice: equipment, consumables, IT systems and video-based documentation from one supplier! "

Mr. Gilbert Merki and Mr. Thomas Kuhn will continue in the management as CTO and CEO of abc dental ag. In addition, Dr. Frank Höfer will join the management team as Executive Director and President of the Verwaltungsrat. Mr. Gianluca Li Donni will be leaving the company as of March 31, 2017 on his own request. "We thank Gianluca for his many years of successful work at abc dental ag," notes Gilbert Merki. Further changes to the company structure are not foreseen.

The growth of abc dental in the future will not be limited to Switzerland. We would explore to transfer this model of providing high-quality and efficient care to dental practices with a 24h service to other markets. "We will continue to be a reliable partner for our customers and suppliers. We are also looking forward to the new possibilities in the CBC Group ", concludes Thomas Kuhn.

About CBC Group. With regional headquarters in 18 countries, 38 locations and having more than 2,800 employees, CBC Group is one of the leading family-owned trading companies in Japan. The company has 92 years of history and is active in Europe, the United States and Asia for more than 40 years. Optical devices and pharmaceutical ingredients are manufactured; otherwise the group concentrates on the trade of chemical products and materials for the packaging industry. The European headquarters is in Düsseldorf, Germany with branches in Milan, Barcelona, Warsaw, London and Moscow. The European business contributes to roughly 25% of the Group's revenues at 1.2 billion Euros.

About abc dental ag. As one of the leading service providers in the Swiss market, abc dental supplies practices throughout Switzerland. With a regional sales network and strategic partners, it supplies customers through traditional and online channels. It offers an unmatched delivery service from the central warehouse in Schlieren near Zurich. ABC Dental also provides technical service and support on site at the Dental practices. More than 50 employees are highly valued partners for customers in the dental market in Switzerland.

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