



NORD Holding sell Rhodius to Equistone

NORD Holding Hannover and the investment company BayBG Bayerische have sold their portfolio company Rhodius Holding GmbH, Weißenburg to the private equity investor Equistone Partners Europe.

Rhodius was founded in 1925. The company founder Max Rhodius became famous for wire mesh pot scourers. NORD Holding took over the majority of the shares in 2006 as part of a business succession. The seller at that time was the family-run **Bürger AG in Hildesheim**. In recent years the company has developed into a leading global manufacturer of components and modules for the automotive industry as well as environmental and process engineering. Core products include wire meshes for **airbag production** and **industrial filter plants**. With 450 employees at four production sites in **Weißenburg (Bavaria)**, **Laage (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)**, **Hungary** and **China**, Rhodius has achieved sales of over € 40 million.

Together with a strong management team, Rhodius has successfully expanded into new lines of business in recent years and built up an international distribution and production structure. As a result, the **group turnover** and the **number of employees has almost doubled in the past five years**. "It was important for the existing shareholders and the management that with Equistone an international investor was found to further support the successful expansion of the company", commented **Rainer Effinger**, CEO of NORD Holding.

Equistone will continue with Rhodius' successful international growth strategy. "The company will continue to be at the forefront when it comes to innovation in vehicle safety and environmental systems. Rhodius is a company with significant potential that we primarily want to use to continue expansion into countries like China and USA", announced **Dr. Peter Hammermann**, senior partner at Equistone.

CEO Dr. Robert Kopetzky, who has been largely responsible for the current growth at Rhodius, remains at the helm with the new owner. "After a strong growth phase with the previous shareholders NORD Holding and BayBG, who supported the company and management superbly in the difficult 2008/09 period, we look forward to a successful future with Equistone", said **Dr. Robert Kopetzky**.

About NORD Holding:

With its **45-year history** NORD Holding is one of the leading private equity investors for upper mid-sized companies. Their main activity is the structuring and financing of **corporate succession models**, the **acquisition of parts of groups** and subsidiaries, and the **expansion and financing** of SMEs.

NORD Holding's investors are several North German savings banks, public insurance companies and pension funds as well as the North German Landesbank. Unlike most other financial investors, who only manage temporary funds, NORD Holding operates as a so-called "Evergreen Fund", investing from its own balance sheet without time limitation. This gives the participating companies the opportunity to develop without external pressure and use their growth potential.

The company is active in more than 25 companies in Germany and German-speaking countries. Through its fund of funds division, NORD Holding also has € 500 million in other European private equity companies and thus offers their partner companies an international network.

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