

Press Release

Deutsche Beteiligungs AG invests in Cartonplast Group GmbH

- **Leading European operator of a pool system for the rental of reusable plastic layer pads for the transport of food and beverage containers**
- **Further growth via internationalisation and expansion of range of services**

Frankfurt/Main, 23 August 2019. Deutsche Beteiligungs AG (DBAG) and DBAG-advised DBAG Fund VII are investing in Cartonplast Group GmbH (“Cartonplast”), the leading European operator of a pool system for reusable plastic layers used mainly for the transportation of glass containers in the food and beverage industry. Within the scope of a management buy-out (MBO), DBAG and DBAG Fund VII will take over the majority stake in Cartonplast from the London-based financial investor Stirling Square Capital Partners. Consummation of the purchase agreement is subject to approval by the competent antitrust authorities; closing is not expected before October 2019. The parties have agreed not to disclose the terms of the sale.

Cartonplast (www.cartonplast.com) was founded in 1985. The company primarily rents out reusable and recyclable plastic layers for the transportation of glass bottles, cans and other glass or PET vessels containing food and beverage, to the producers of these vessels. Within its customer value chain, Cartonplast has established a closed logistics cycle, comprising not only rental, but also collection, sorting and cleaning of the reusable layers. Compared to cardboard layer pads, those made of plastic are more hygienic, safer in transport and - due to their reusability – more cost-efficient.

The company is headquartered in Dietzenbach, Germany, but also operates from 16 additional locations – abroad, these are predominantly in West and Central Europe, Turkey, Russia, Brazil and South Africa. In 2018, the company generated revenues of approximately 80 million euros, of which around three quarters were attributable to the rental of plastic layers.

Thanks to its close customer relationships, Cartonplast has gained a leading position in Europe – in a market with solid growth rates. The Company is benefiting from an outsourcing trend as well as from sustainability efforts and the increasing importance of reusability. In the years to come, Cartonplast will focus on internationalisation so as to continue its path of dynamic growth. Furthermore, the company aims to expand its range of services, e.g. through the additional rental of plastic pallets and covering caps.

“Due to the stable market environment and the company’s strong market position, Cartonplast is an attractive investment opportunity for DBAG”, Torsten Grede, Spokesman of DBAG’s Board of Management, said on the occasion of the contract signing. “The entrepreneurial vision of the management also convinced us. We envisage very good conditions for further profitable growth.”

Serkan Koray, CEO of Cartonplast, adds: “We will push forward our international expansion in the years ahead. Having DBAG at our side means we can count on a strong and experienced partner, accompanying us in this important development step.”

For more information, please contact Michael Heikenfeld, Chief Sales Officer of Cartonplast, michael.heikenfeld@cartonplast.com.

About the Cartonplast Group

CPL was founded in 1985, and its Headquarters is based in Dietzenbach, Germany. The PLPs by CPL are utilised at more than 130 production locations in 20 countries for the transportation of glass, cans and PET containers to filling plants. As the largest European Pool System operator of reusable PLPs on a rental basis, CPL has a closely-linked network of service centres. As the pioneers of a “green” business model, CPL has more than 30 years’ experience in the delivery and collection, sorting and cleaning as well as in the management of reusable transport products. This environmentally friendly closed loop pooling concept is one of the most successful outsourcing systems in Europe, with 7,300 participating fillers in the beverage, food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries in 30 countries. 45 million PLPs, currently in operation with more than 140 million cycles per year, are managed worldwide in 17 CPL Service Centres.

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