

++ RFG TO ACQUIRE BRUMBY'S

Australian Retail Food Group Ltd will move to acquire Brumby's Bakeries Holdings Ltd, having won the backing of more than 90 per cent of the bakery group's shareholders for its takeover of the company. Retail Food Group (RFG) said it had received 91.22 per cent acceptances for its takeover of Brumby's, crossing the 90 per cent threshold needed to acquire the company. RFG made a \$3.40 per share offer for Brumby's in May, subsequently receiving the unanimous support of the Brumby's board. Retail Food Group is a leading Australian retail food brand manager and franchisor. It is the franchisor and intellectual property owner of the Donut King and bb's café systems. As of 4 May 2007, there were a total of 287 Donut King outlets established in Australia and 71 bb's café outlets established within Australia and New Zealand.

Brumby's Bakeries Holdings Limited is also a leading Australian retail food brand manager and franchisor. It is the franchisor and intellectual property owner of the Brumby's system. As of 14 May 2007, there were a total of 321 Brumby's outlets established in Australia and New Zealand.

http://www.rfg.com.au/rfg/investors/media_centre +++

++ SPECIAL SOURDOUGH FROM BILLERBECK

German sourdough specialist, Dr. Otto Suwelack Nachf. GmbH & Co. KG is currently investing about 3m Euros in a new, fully automatically controlled production plant for naturally fermented dried sponge and sourdoughs. With this investment, the capacity will increase by about 50%. The entire plant is being upgraded to the latest hygiene standards using a completely integrated new CIP system. Automation of process operation and documentation ensures that future requirements regarding batch traceability and safety are being complied with. The new plant will start operation in fall 2007.

With this investment into the new fermentation plant, Suwelack highlights its commitment of offering tailor-made

flavorful sourdough products to its customers in the b2b business.

All fermentation cultures used for the sourdough specialties are produced in the company and are guaranteed non-GMO. The comprehensive reference stock is constantly being expanded by cultures with high flavor performance.



++ New fermentation tanks for the production of sourdough

With this investment the company is, most importantly, now capable of responding flexibly to the current request for milder sourdoughs with more distinctive taste and flavor.

Another investment is being made in the expansion and modernization of the technical center. In the long term, the existing experience into fermentation and biotechnology will be expanded and kept on the highest level. With a new pilot fermentation plant, research and development can more efficiently implement the fermentation process from the laboratory scale into production. With these investments, Suwelack is building the foundation for further growth. The company plans to further increase its leading market position as a supplier of dried sourdough and to strengthen its competitiveness. +++

++ EATING WHOLE GRAINS HELPS TO LOWER THE RISK OF HEART DISEASE

A new US study adds to recent evidence showing that eating whole grains helps to lower the risk of heart disease. Researchers from Wake Forest University, North Carolina, measured habitual diet in 1,178 middle-aged adults using food frequency questionnaires.

Risk of heart disease was then assessed by measuring the thickness of the carotid artery wall, the main artery that supplies the heart with oxygen-rich blood, using an ultrasound technique. These measurements were repeated at follow-up appointments 5 years later.

The results showed that subjects who ate the most wholegrain foods had the lowest risk of heart disease, as indicated by a thinner carotid artery wall. The results remained significant even when potential confounding nutrients, such as vitamin B1, vitamin B6, fiber, and vitamin E were taken into account. It is not known exactly how whole grains exert their positive influence on heart health and more research is needed. However, the benefits are already recognized by national organizations in the form of approved heart health claims for whole grains added to food products. For more information, see Mellen PB et al (2007). Whole-grain intake and carotid artery atherosclerosis in a multiethnic cohort: the Insulin Resistance Atherosclerosis Study. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Vol 85, pg 1495-1502.

www.ajcn.org/cgi/content/full/85/6/1444 +++

++ CSM SELLS GLUCONIC ACID BUSINESS

Dutch company CSM, global producer and distributor of bakery products and food ingredients, has sold the customer base for its small-scale gluconic acid business (gluconic acid, sodium gluconate, and gluconic delta lactone) of its subsidiary PURAC America in the USA to Fuso Chemical. The transaction is effective from June 29, 2007. Sales in 2006 amounted to approximately USD 5.7 million. The selling price excluding inventories amounts to approx. USD 2.5 million. The transaction does not include the transfer of the 19 employees or the transfer of the factory of PURAC America in Janesville, Wisconsin. The Janesville factory will be closed down in the near future. Fuso Chemical is a company based in Japan, the USA and China and a leading producer of malic acid, citric acid, gluconic acid, and sodium gluconate.

www.csm.nl +++

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