

++ CONSOLIDATION AT KP SNACKS

KP Snacks in Hayes, UK, former snack division of United Biscuits Ltd., has belonged to the Intersnack Group GmbH & Co. KG in Düsseldorf, Germany, for one year. Now the company plans to close the Haverhill site in Suffolk and move all the nut processing and packing operations to the newly created Rotherham site in Yorkshire. The consolidation will cost around GBP 16m (approx. EUR 19.2m). A spokeswoman told the press that from next year KP Snacks and Intersnack UK will operate under one name, KP Snacks (part of the Intersnack Group). 85 people are employed at the Haverhill site, and all are being offered relocation to other available roles, KP Snacks said. +++

++ 589 FINAL WARNINGS AMONG BELGIAN BREAD BAKERS

The Belgian food agencies thoroughly inspected 1,440 bread bakeries and confectioners in 2013. Of these, 589 received a final written warning due to deficiencies or violations of the hygiene regulations. This means almost half of all the bakeries in Belgium are defective. The *Gazet* newspaper reported that charges were filed against around 120 bakeries due to serious shortcomings, and 13 businesses were temporarily closed. The most frequent problems were said to be failure to comply with refrigeration temperatures for foodstuffs, and the presence of domestic animals or even vermin. Around 60% of the businesses in and around Antwerp along showed deficiencies. In a comment by the trade association of bakers in Flanders, Bart Thomassen, their official responsible for food safety and hygiene for Flanders bakers, stressed that "The checks really are important, but in many cases it is simply the absence of licenses or other documents, or it involves for example a pail of pudding that was not closed or on which the expiry date could no longer be found." +++

++ BAHLSEN GIVES ITSELF A FACELIFT

The Bahlsen GmbH & Co. KG, Hannover, plans to equip itself for the future through the "Bahlsen 2016" project. It says a few restructurings are necessary for this. The plan is that in future the overall Bahlsen Holding will look after the baked goods manufacturer's strategic alignment. It will be managed by owner Werner Michael Bahlsen, the current head of sales and marketing, Sönke Renk, and the finance, procurement and personnel expert, Michael Gawron. According to Renk "We will give this holding company an overall lean structure." Many operational tasks are currently handled by the head office in Hannover. In future these will become the responsibility of the federal states, which will also enable them to be more closely matched to the regional needs of the markets. The company has also decreed that the factories will move closer to the market. It says that as a result the responsibility for the five factories will devolve on the respective companies in the federal states. Christoph Hollemann, until now Production Director, has already left the company. Instead ex-Beiersdorf manager Michael Hähnel will be responsible for sales, logistics and the works in Barsinghausen, Berlin and Varel. The works in Schneverdingen will in future be managed

by the former Managing Director Ralf van Deest. The works in Skawina, Poland, will in future report to the national manager for Poland. Renk says "We want the factories and the sales markets to follow shared aims, thus ensuring quicker decision-making." Bahlsen hopes this will improve efficiency. +++

++ VANDEMOORTELE WILL BUILD A FROZEN BAKED GOODS PLANT

Vandemoortele NV in Gent, Belgium, plans to invest in the construction of a bakery plant in St Vulbas, near Lyon, France, as the demand for frozen products has increased in France and overall in Europe. The investment costs are not published but the company said that the plant will create 30 jobs. Vandemoortele produces frozen bakery and patisserie products in 12 European countries. In 2012, it employed around 4,800 people and generated a turnover of EUR 1.3bn. +++

++ KAZAKHSTAN: LOTTE COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF CONFECTIONER

Kazakh confectionery producer Rakhat JSC, Almaty, has closed a deal to sell 76% of its shares to the South Korean Lotte Confectionery, Seoul. Lotte had already made the transaction worth USD 157m (approx. EUR 115m) in July 2013, but didn't get the regulatory approvals until end of November. Furthermore the press release informs that Lotte Confectionery intends to issue a mandatory tender offer to acquire the remaining 24% in Rakhat, at such time and on terms mandated by Kazakhstan Law. JSC Rakhat was founded in 1942 and produces over 250 confectionery products. The company exports both to the CIS and other countries, including Russia, Tajikistan, Germany, Mongolia, and China. +++

++ DIRECTOR LEAVES AT FINSBURY

Finsbury Food Group plc in Cardiff, UK, has announced the departure of Crawford Currie as Finance Director of the subsidiary Lightbody Group and as Finsbury Group board member. This change took effect on 29th November 2013. Non-Executive Chairman Martin Lightbody said "Over the last 15 years Crawford has played a pivotal role in growing and developing the Lightbody site, and since his appointment to the Finsbury Board, working with the rest of the team to build the business we have today. I would like to thank Crawford for his significant contribution to the group over the years, and wish him all the very best for the future knowing that he will grasp his new pursuits with his usual enthusiasm." +++

++ NEW NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR GREGGS

Greggs plc, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, has a new independent Non-Executive Director. Helena Ganczakowski will start on 2nd January 2014. She was previously at Unilever for 23 years. Greggs' Chairman Ian Durant said, "We are delighted to welcome Helena to the board. Her extensive consumer marketing experience will be of great value as Greggs implements a range of initiatives in support of our 'food on the go' strategy." Ganczakowski will also sit in the Audit, Nominations and Remuneration Committees at Greggs. +++

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