

Stockholm, February 24, 2006

Accent nominated for Private Equity Award – for the second consecutive year

Accent Equity, the Sweden-based mid-market private equity specialist has for the second consecutive year been nominated by Financial News/Private Equity News as one of five candidates for the title 'Nordic Private Equity Firm of the Year'.

Accent Equity closed its latest fund in August 2004 with a committed capital of EUR 250 million. Since then Accent has made eight investments into this fund deploying some 50% of the committed capital already in the first 18 months of the investment period. The most recent investments were Tesab and Semantix – the first being a stone-crushing equipment manufacturer, acquired in January 2006 and the second an interpretation and translation group of companies acquired in mid-February 2006.

In addition to eight direct investments into Accent Equity 2003, three strategic add-on investments have also been executed in portfolio companies. The Spanish medical equipment distributor – ATM – was acquired by Cefar. Accent's Norwegian portfolio company Jøtul acquired Krog Iversen in Denmark providing complementary modern design stove products. Nordic Bake-Off acquired Gotlandsbrödet AB, thereby consolidating the Swedish bake-off market further.

The first exit from Accent Equity 2003 was announced on February 17, when Accent divested Nordic Bake-Off to the Finnish bakery group Vaasan & Vaasan, backed by CapVest Equity Partners. The second partial exit was announced on February 23, when Accent and Nordic Capital listed KappAhl on the Stockholm Stock Exchange.

"We're obviously delighted to once again have been nominated by Financial News/Private Equity News as a candidate for the prestigious title of Nordic Private Equity Firm of the Year," says Jan Ohlsson CEO of Accent Equity Partners. "We have continued to exploit the vast number of mid-market opportunities that exist in the Nordic private equity universe and our deal flow pipeline suggests that there's more to come in the near future."

Investments made in the Accent Equity 2003 fund so far are: Cefar (medical technology), Wernersson (grocery imports and wholesale), Jøtul (stoves and fireplaces), KappAhl (clothes retailing), Nordic Bake Off (bakery products), Anna's (ginger thins), Tesab (stone-crushing equipment) and Semantix (interpretation and translation services).

For further information, please call Jan Ohlsson, +46 8 545 073 00.

Accent Equity Partners is a leading Nordic private equity mid-cap partnership advising funds with committed capital of more than €500 million of which approximately €150 million is currently available for new investments. 20 international financial institutions are among Accent's investors. The investors come from the Nordic countries as well as from the UK, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Luxemburg, and the USA. Since the mid-nineties, the Accent team has advised six funds and carried out 40 investments and 30 exits. Accent Equity Partners' investments cover a vast span of industries. www.accentequity.se