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Accent Equity Partners acquires majority shareholding in Wernersson Ost

The investment firm Accent Equity Partners has acquired 71 per cent of the shares in Wernersson Ost AB in Ulricehamn. The former owners, Magnus and Christer Pehrson, will keep the remaining 29 per cent and continue in their current positions in the company.

Wernersson Ost AB was founded in 1930 by Tage Wernersson, Magnus and Christer's grandfather. The company's annual turnover is about SEK 360 million, making it Sweden's biggest independent cheese supplier. Approximately 100,000 tonnes of cheese per year is handled and processed in the company's plants in Ulricehamn. The cheeses are mainly imported from Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and France. Approximately 450 articles are resold, mainly to leading retail chains in Sweden. The bigger customers include Axfood and independent retailers and wholesalers. The company also has some exports, mainly to Denmark.

"Wernersson Ost has exhibited stable growth for many years and generates good cash flows," says Jan Samuelson, responsible for the investment at Accent Equity Partners. "The plan we have arrived at together with the management calls for us to develop the company from the strong position Wernersson Ost has in its market segment. We see the main development potential in a further accentuation on imported and specialty cheese, an increased geographic coverage in Sweden, and increased exports to neighbouring countries."

"Wernersson Ost has been in the family's ownership for over seventy years," says Magnus Pehrson. "It feels good to bring in a professional part-owner with experience of food retailing who is prepared to invest time, effort and money in the company's further development. We look forward to a new and exciting phase in our development."

For further information, please contact Jan Samuelson, Senior Investment Manager at Accent Equity Partners, +46 8 545 073 05, or Magnus Pehrson, CEO of Wernersson Ost, +46 321 261 50.

Accent Equity Partners is one of the leading Nordic investment firms in the mid-cap segment of the private equity market. Accent Equity Partners brings in capital and competence to established Nordic companies with good growth and stable cash flows. Since 1994, Accent Equity Partners has carried out some 50-odd company acquisitions in the Nordic region. Investors include the Fourth and Sixth AP Funds, LRF (the Federation of Swedish Farmers), Lantmännen (the Swedish Farmers' Supply and Crop Marketing Association), and FöreningsSparbanken.