



PRESS RELEASE

Nanogate AG: Shareholder base broadened, HeidelbergCapital acquired as additional anchor investor, existing anchor investor, BIP Investment Partners, increases stake significantly

HeidelbergCapital acquires a stake of approximately 34 % in Nanogate – BIP Investment Partners increases its stake to over 25 % – Financial investor equinet ESCF I remains an investor

Saarbrücken, Germany, 15 May 2008. Nanogate AG (ISIN DE000A0JKHC9) is broadening its shareholder base as it acquires another long-term anchor investor. HeidelbergCapital Private Equity Fund I is acquiring a stake of around 34 % in Nanogate. The investment company is financed by Auda LLC N.Y. At the same time the existing anchor investor, BIP Investment Partners, is increasing its stake to over 25 %. The ESCF I fund, managed by equinet Venture Partners, will reduce its holding but maintain direct control of its shares in the future. The shares for the transaction come from the holding of Nanogate Technologies GmbH, which largely consists of shares held by existing financial investors (3i, Sal. Oppenheim, equinet ESCF I, SET). The purchase price is significantly higher than the current market price. The transaction volume amounted to more than EUR 20 million. The existing investors have supported Nanogate since the start-up phase, in the case of 3i for example for approximately 10 years.

HeidelbergCapital was founded in Germany in 2007 as Private Equity Fund and is financed by Auda LLC New York. Auda itself manages around USD 5.5 billion worldwide and has investments in numerous funds and investment companies. Clemens Doppler, Managing Partner of HeidelbergCapital, says: "Nanogate is one of the most successful nanotechnology companies worldwide with a business



model today which is profitable and strong in sales. On the basis of its integrated approach to development and production, Nanogate is excellently positioned in this future-oriented market which encompasses many different segments. We want to benefit from its outstanding potential and new high-performance technologies. We expect sales and earnings to increase significantly in the medium and long term”.

BIP Investment Partners has had shares in Nanogate since July 2007 and is an independent, publicly quoted investment company based in Luxembourg. It currently manages a volume of EUR 600 million and has shares in more than 30 companies, including indirectly in two nanotechnology companies. The largest shareholder in BIP Investment Partners, which was established in April 2000, is Fortis Banque Luxembourg. Marc Faber, General Manager at BIP Investment Partners, explains: “Nanogate is one of Europe’s leading nanotechnology companies and we are completely satisfied with how it is developing. We are certain that the value of the company will increase significantly in the long term. The nanotechnology market offers extraordinary opportunities for growth – we plan to provide Nanogate with active support in the coming years to realise these opportunities.”

Ralf Zastrau, Chairman of the Management Board of Nanogate AG, adds: “Nanogate is very grateful to its existing financial investors for their commitment over the years. They have made a key contribution towards being able to systematically build up the company. Today Nanogate is firmly established and is a partner for many international companies that are already making use of the numerous practical applications provided by nanotechnology. The confidence of our investors, HeidelbergCapital and BIP Investment Partners, reaffirms our strong market position and first-class perspectives.” In the current 2008 financial year Nanogate expects to increase its sales to between EUR 12.5 and 14.5 million and to achieve earnings before taxes (EBT) of at least between EUR 0.7 and 1.0 million.



Overview of the future shareholder structure of Nanogate AG:

Free float: 31 %

HeidelbergCapital Private Equity Fund: 34 %

BIP Investment Partners: 25 %

NanoTec Beteiligungen GmbH: 8 %

equinet ESCF I: 2 %

(percentages rounded off)

Please contact the following with any enquiries:

Christian Dose (Financial press and investors)
equinet Communications AG
Tel. +49 (0)69 58997-302
communications@equinet-ag.de

Nanogate AG
Gewerbepark Eschbergerweg
D-66121 Saarbrücken
www.nanogate.com

Klaus Reuning (Business and trade press)
MPW FINANCE Public & Investor Relations GmbH
Tel. +49 (0)69 959290-0
nanogate@mpwfinance.com

Nanogate AG:

Nanogate is a leading international enabler in the nanotechnology growth market and so opens the gate to this technology for its customers. The Saarbrücken-based firm enables the programming and integration of additional properties such as non-stick, anti-bacterial, anti-corrosive, ultra-low friction. Nanogate thereby gains a competitive edge for its customers by product refinement using chemical nanotechnology. Nanogate covers a wide range of industries, functions and substrates already on the basis of technology platforms. The company thus provides a decisive interface for the commercialisation of chemical nanotechnology, bridges the gap between raw materials and their industrial conversion into products and concentrates as an enabler on one of the most attractive segments in the industry. As a partner in innovation, Nanogate provides many services along the value chain – from development and production of innovative nanocomposites and nanostructured materials to powerful support for innovation and product integration.

The Nanogate Group currently has 60 employees in all (as of 31 December 2007) and since commencing operations in 1999 has been a pioneer in nanotechnology. Nanogate is a high-growth company and has operated profitably since financial year 2004. In financial year 2007 it boosted consolidated sales by about 32.8% to around EUR 10.4 million. The earnings before taxes (EBT, according to IFRS) increased by about 32.8% to around EUR 1.5 million. The company has first-class customer references, such as ABB, BSH Bosch-Siemens Hausgeräte, Kärcher and Koenig & Bauer AG, and many years' experience of different industries and applications. It has also entered into strategic cooperation with US companies Dow Corning and Ceradyne/ESK Ceramics and Authentix and with Giesecke & Devrient. The Group's consolidated entity includes Nanogate Advanced Materials GmbH, which specialises in



safety engineering and optics and is a joint venture with the US Air Products group. Nanogate also holds an investment with a majority option in Holmenkol AG.

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