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KLÖCKNER & CO SE: PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT FOR ACQUISITION OF BECKER STAHL-SERVICE GROUP CONCLUDED

- Largest acquisition since IPO in 2006
- Acquiring one of world's largest and most modern steel service centers
- Klöckner & Co to become a leading market player in Europe for flat steel distribution

Klöckner & Co SE has signed a preliminary agreement to acquire Germany's Becker Stahl-Service Group.

The Becker Stahl-Service Group is one of the largest steel service center companies in Europe and operates one of the world's largest and most modern steel service centers at its headquarters in Bönen, North Rhine-Westphalia. The Group has around 460 employees and generated about €600 million in sales for the fiscal year 2008/2009 ending on September 30, 2009. The company is specialized in processing and distributing flat steel products (coils), with a maximum processing capacity of more than one million tons per year. Its main customers are the automotive industry, other steel distributors and a number of other industries such as domestic appliance manufacturers (white goods).

"Becker Stahl-Service is an extremely well-positioned company that consistently generates strong results, even in the tough current economic environment. The acquisition enables us to extend our market position for flat steel significantly while also gaining a greater degree of diversification on the customer side. We also expect a high degree of synergies by the efficient supply with flat steel from Becker Stahl-Service to our locations in Germany and Europe", explains Gisbert Rühl, Chairman of Klöckner & Co SE's Management Board.



The proposed acquisition is subject to the due diligence which has yet to be conducted and is subject to approval by the antitrust authorities. The final purchase agreement is expected to be concluded in the beginning of 2010.

