

28 November 2008

Media Release

Administrators appointed to Hans Continental Smallgoods

Mark Mentha, Brian McMaster and John Park of KordaMentha have been appointed Voluntary Administrators to the Hans group of companies, one of the largest ham and processed meat producing groups in Australia.

Mark Mentha said today the companies, including Hans Continental Smallgoods and the Swicker's Kingaroy Bacon Factory, would trade normally while the administrators tried to sell the business as a going concern.

"It's business as usual and there is no immediate threat to the jobs of production workers," Mr Mentha said.

The Hans group employs approximately 1400 people. There are about 1000 employees at the Hans manufacturing sites in Colmslie and Wacol in Brisbane and Blacktown in Sydney. It is a leading producer and processor of quality ham, bacon, salami, sausages, franks and fresh pork products for the domestic and export markets.

Hans also is the majority shareholder in the Swicker's factory, which is the second largest pork producer in Australia. It operates an abattoir and production facility in Kingaroy, Queensland, Swicker's employs about 400 people. Hans also has an office in Doncaster, Melbourne. A third company, Sun Pork Foods, is also in voluntary administration. Sun Pork sells offal from the Kingaroy plant.

Mr Mentha said the companies are involved in all key stages of the Australian pork industry and had been hurt by the same factors which affected the whole industry - higher feed costs caused by the drought and increased competition from subsidised importers selling frozen ham.

"Hans is a great brand and has some world-class facilities, so our first aim will be to offer the business to buyers with related interests so that some synergies may be achieved," Mr Mentha said.

Mr Mentha said that the businesses will continue to trade as usual during the foreseeable future while the administrators sought purchasers for the business. Whatever the outcome of the administration, the entitlements of employees were assured, Mr Mentha said.

"We urge all Australian consumers to buy Australian and buy Hans in the lead-up to Christmas to help secure the future of the workers in this business," Mr Mentha said.

Hans was established as a small butcher in Brisbane by Dutch-born chef Hans Van Der Drift in the 1960s. It began exporting in 1992 and by 1998 was rated the number two smallgoods manufacturer in Australia. In 2002, Hans took a 40 per cent stake in Swicker's of Kingaroy and subsequently acquired a majority share.

Media enquiries: Michael Smith 0411 055 306

Corporate Recovery Services
Turnaround & Restructuring Services
Real Estate Advisory
Forensics

info@kordamentha.com
www.kordamentha.com

Liability limited by a scheme
approved under Professional
Standards Legislation

Melbourne

KordaMentha Pty Ltd
ACN 100 169 391
Level 24, 333 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
GPO Box 2985
Melbourne VIC 3001
Office: 03 8623 3333
Fax: 03 8623 3399

KordaMentha Offices

Adelaide Perth
Brisbane Singapore
Gold Coast Sydney
Melbourne Townsville
New Zealand

Cooperation with AlixPartners

Chicago Munich
Dallas New York
Detroit Paris
Düsseldorf San Francisco
London Shanghai
Los Angeles Tokyo
Milan