

## Qioptiq Group takes over LINOS AG

**Göttingen, October 11, 2006.** The shareholders of LINOS AG (ISIN DE0005256507) have offered to sell Optco Akquisitionen GmbH 4,284,431 LINOS shares in the context of a takeover bid, the acceptance period for which ended at 24:00 (CEST) on October 6, 2006. This corresponds to 77,7 per cent of the shares and exceeds the minimum acceptance level of 75 per cent by 2,7 percentage points. The German and Austrian cartel authorities already approved the transaction in September without making any conditions. This means that all the suspensory conditions have been met on which the takeover bid was based.

LINOS shareholders who have not offered to sell their shares yet can do so in return for the same cash payment of EUR 16 per share in a further acceptance period from October 13 through October 26, 2006 (midnight CEST). This amount represents a premium of 45 per cent over the average three-month share price of EUR 11 on July 11, 2006.

“We have welcomed the takeover bid by the Qioptiq Group right from the start. I am delighted that so many shareholders share our conviction that we have found the right partner for LINOS. With Qioptiq’s assistance, LINOS will be able to establish itself more easily on some markets, particularly in the USA and Asia. Together, the two companies have excellent growth prospects“, says Professor Dr Gerd Litfin, CEO of LINOS AG.

Optco Akquisitionen GmbH is an investee company of the Qioptiq Group, which is described in more detail in the bid document, and is designed specially for this acquisition. Qioptiq is an international leader in the design and manufacturing of high-precision optical components and modules for military and commercial applications. The Qioptiq Group is part of the portfolio of Candover\*, one of the leading private equity companies in Europe.

Further information and the official bid document are available in the Internet at [www.optco-uebernahmeangebot.de](http://www.optco-uebernahmeangebot.de).

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## Press release

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### **About LINOS**

LINOS AG is a manufacturer of sophisticated optical systems that operates all over the world. In line with the corporate principle "Photonics for Innovation", LINOS is a development partner and supplier for customers in such growth markets as lasers, optical metrology, medicine, biotechnology and semiconductors. The company was established as a management buy-out in 1996, has acquired and integrated various photonics companies – most recently Rodenstock Präzisionsoptik in Munich – since then and is listed in the Prime Standard index at Frankfurt Stock Exchange. LINOS AG focusses on the three strategic business divisions Information Technology & Communications, Health Care & Life Sciences and Industrial Manufacturing. 750 highly qualified staff work for LINOS AG in the Group, which produces at three locations in Germany as well as at a plant in Poland. LINOS has sales companies of its own in the USA, Great Britain and France, which are important export countries. [www.linoss.de](http://www.linoss.de)

### **About Qioptiq**

Qioptiq – formerly the High Tech Optics division of Thales – is an international leader in the design and manufacturing of high-precision optical components and modules for military and commercial applications. Qioptiq has its core operations in the UK and Singapore as well as other manufacturing and sales units in Germany, Hungary and the USA. The company employs about 1,450 people and generated revenues of EUR 142 million in 2005. In the UK, Qioptiq specialises in developing and producing sophisticated optical modules and components for applications in aerospace electronics, defence and night-vision operation. Its most important products include head-up displays for aircraft, optical modules for defence programmes and infrared optical systems, night-vision equipment and satellite coatings to reduce reflection. In Singapore, the company designs and produces high-precision optical components and parts for defence purposes in the market for night-vision equipment as well as for medical applications and instruments. [www.qioptiq.com](http://www.qioptiq.com)

### **About Candover**

Candover is one of the leading private equity companies in Europe, focussing on large-scale buy-out transactions. Since it was established in 1980, the company has invested in 128 buy-outs worth more than EUR 35 billion. Candover carries out its investment via two different avenues: first, via Candover Investments plc, a market-listed investment company, and, second, via Candover Partners, a wholly-owned subsidiary. The Candover Group has offices in London, Düsseldorf and Paris as well as a regional consultant in Madrid. Candover Partners is authorised by and subject to the Financial Services Authority in the UK.

Wherever mentioned in this text, "Candover" means Candover Investments plc and/or one or several of its subsidiaries, including Candover Partners Limited as the principal initiator of the Candover 1994, 1997 and 2001 Funds and as manager of the Candover 2005 Funds. [www.candover.com](http://www.candover.com)

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