

## Change in the LINOS Executive Board

**Göttingen, December 11, 2006.** Professor Dr Gerd Litfin, founder and for many years Chief Executive Officer of the LINOS Group, is resigning from his current management position at the end of the year to join the Supervisory Board at the beginning of January 2007. Volker Brockmeyer, who has been Chief Financial Officer up to now, will be his successor as Chief Executive Officer. From January 2007 onwards, he will therefore be the sole director of LINOS AG (ISIN DE0005256507). This change and Litfin's resignation from the Executive Board were marked by a reception held by the Göttingen photonics company on December 11, 2006, that was attended by about 100 guests from the political, business and scientific communities. "Since 2002, Volker Brockmeyer has received a great deal of approval and acknowledgement in his Executive Board assignments and in the reorganisation of the company. I am convinced that he will lead LINOS into a very successful future", said Litfin.

Litfin will be taking over the position of Chairman of the Supervisory Board from Gerd Kastrup, who will be remaining a member of the board. Reinhold Barlian and Dr Gottfried Neuhaus will, on the other hand, be resigning from Supervisory Board at the end of the year. It is planned that Nils Stoesser will be appointed the third member of the Supervisory Board from January 2007 onwards. He is director of the private equity company Candover Partners plc, the main Qioptiq shareholder.

The changes in the corporate management are connected with the takeover of LINOS by the Qioptiq Group, which was completed on October 11, 2006. Litfin and his family, the main shareholders in the past, sold their shares within the framework of the takeover.

A message from Thomas Oppermann (MP) was followed at the reception by a speech from Gerd Kastrup, who paid tribute to the development of LINOS AG from a family business with a 100-year tradition to a capital market-oriented company with global operations. He expressed his conviction that "many new opportunities will be opening up for LINOS on the market in the alliance with Qioptiq".

In his speech, Nils Stoesser, director of Candover Partners, emphasised that cost-cutting programmes are not the focus in the combination of

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The LINOS logo features the word "LINOS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A small red dot is positioned above the letter "I".

LINOS and Qioptiq. "In order to achieve our objective – revenue and earnings growth – we give the companies in which we hold interests both strategic and financial support, so that they can make sustained improvements in their market position and earnings situation", said Stoesser.

At a meeting with the press before the reception, Benoit Bazire, CEO of the Qioptiq Group, said: "With LINOS, we have acquired a highly complementary business whose strengths we are keen to protect, utilise and build on. LINOS will benefit from our global footprint, particularly from our strong sales presence in the USA, and from our technical excellence in a number of complementary areas. As a result of the takeover, the Qioptiq Group will have enhanced capabilities, particularly in the areas of system integration and UV technology. This enables us to offer our customers a broader range of products and services."

### **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.linos.de](http://www.linos.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*

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*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 the medical technology market. [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 131 buy-outs worth more than EUR 38 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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