



# K A R D E X

**MEDIA SERVICE**

March 2, 2000/No. 37

## **Kardex acquires AFT Automation and Conveying Systems GmbH, Schopfheim/Germany**

**The traditional niche in storage and retrieval systems held by the Kardex Remstar International Group, Zurich, had become somewhat restrictive of late. The takeover of AFT, which became effective on 1.1.2000, has given the Group control of a well-known manufacturer in automation and conveying technology, which has made a big name for itself in the automobile industry.**

For years now, the Kardex Group has posted impressive double-digit increases in sales as a result of its clearly defined growth policies. With sales of just under CHF 300m in the past year, it holds a leading position in the international storage and retrieval systems industry.

In order to grow further, however, the Kardex Group needed to extend its markets. One area which logically suggested itself was automation and conveying technology. An ideal candidate for a takeover was identified in AFT Automatisierungs- und Förder-technik GmbH (Automation and Conveying Systems Ltd.), founded in 1985 by Gerhard Brutschin in Schopfheim, Germany, near Basel. In 1999, the AFT Group posted consolidated sales of DEM 100m and had some 200 employees. Order backlog likewise amounts to DEM 100m. Like the Kardex Group, AFT has a global presence. Important customers of the AFT Group include major European and American automobile manufacturers as well as big international concerns like MAN, Bosch, Siemens, Ciba and several large hospitals. AFT founder Gerhard Brutschin will continue to run the company in his position as General Manager.

For the Kardex Group, the AFT takeover will mean an increase in sales to approx. CHF 400m in the year 2000 and huge potential for new business in areas like E-commerce.

For further information please contact Mr Richard Flury or Dr Silvio Anesini on 01-947 61 11 or fax 01-947 61 61.