



# News service MAN Group

Press release of  
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## **MAN to sell shareholding in SMS to the Weiss family**

MAN AG and the Weiss family have reached agreement that the joint shareholding in SMS AG and its affiliated companies, which dates from 1973, is to be transferred in two stages to the sole ownership of the Weiss family.

SMS is to be changed from a public (Aktiengesellschaft) into a private limited company (GmbH). Immediately following this, MAN will transfer 50% of its equity interest to a holding company belonging to the Weiss family with economic effect as of 1 October 2003. A mutual call and put option has been granted for the second half of the equity interest (25.5%). It was agreed that no details of the purchase price would be disclosed. The transaction is subject to approval by MAN AG's Supervisory Board.

The SMS Group will therefore be leaving the MAN Group with effect from 1 October 2003 and will in future be consolidated as a member of the Siemag Weiss Group only.

The SMS Group, jointly owned by MAN and the Weiss family and headed by Executive Board Chairman Heinrich Weiss for three decades, has developed during this time to become global market leader in most of its areas of activity.

In view of the fact that both shareholders held equal voting rights at the annual general meeting, it was however agreed some time ago that MAN would surrender its interest as soon as a suitable opportunity arose. This represents a significant step on the part of MAN in the direction of its stated policy of focusing the business portfolio on companies which not only hold a leading position in terms of the technical and competitive aspects of systems contracting, but also offer a clear management structure.

MAN Aktiengesellschaft  
The Executive Board