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Heraeus new owner of Argor-Heraeus

Mendrisio, 3 April 2017 – Argor-Heraeus Group has a new owner: The global business unit Heraeus Precious Metals (HPM) of technology group Heraeus, which has long been a shareholder of Argor-Heraeus, acquires 100 percent of the shares in the Swiss precious metals processor. As a result of the transaction, Heraeus will become the world's largest provider of precious metals services.

Argor-Heraeus, one of the world's leading precious metal processors, is headquartered in Mendrisio, Switzerland, with offices in Germany, Italy and Latin America. It has a strategic position in the middle of the value chain. That makes Argor-Heraeus the ideal partner for all players in the precious metals business: mines, bullion houses, central and commercial banks, mints, jewellery and watch manufacturers, and other industrial consumers.

“Our company has undergone rapid growth and international expansion and is continuing to develop its technologies while consistently enhancing its processing capacities,” says Christoph Wild, Co-CEO at Argor-Heraeus. “With Heraeus, we have found a competent, reliable and also financially strong owner whom we know well and with whom we can continue our successful development. We share more than a name; we have long worked together as trusted partners. And we share core values: an uncompromising commitment to superior quality, to our regional roots but also to our global responsibility for mankind and the environment.”

The new ownership structure and the integration of expertise will create synergies in many areas that will benefit both companies in equal measure. Argor's recycling business with its focus on gold and silver, for instance, ideally complements Heraeus' precious metals recycling, which has largely been concentrating on the platinum metals segment. The companies also complement each other in respect to their regional sourcing and selling markets: in addition to its Swiss headquarters, Argor already has important operations in South America, while Heraeus' presence in Asia, India and Northern America enables Argor to better access these markets.

Under the transaction, Heraeus, which has been a co-owner since 1986, will acquire the existing shares of Commerzbank, Münze Österreich and the incumbent management. The parties have agreed not to disclose the financial terms of the transaction. The closing of the transaction is subject to regulatory approval.

About Argor-Heraeus

The Argor-Heraeus Group, founded in 1951, is one of the world's most important processors of precious metals. The headquarters in Mendrisio (Ticino, Switzerland) and the international branch offices in Germany, Italy and Chile, are involved in the processing of gold, silver, platinum and palladium, the transformation into finished and semi-finished products for banks, the electronics industry, the chemical sector as well as the watch and jewellery sector. In addition, the company provides support services for precious metals trading. Since its founding, the company's main objectives have been the creation of added value, innovation and compliance throughout the entire distribution chain for precious metals, from the mine to the end user, to the benefit of all partners involved.

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About Heraeus

Heraeus, the technology group headquartered in Hanau, Germany, is a leading international family-owned company formed in 1851. With expertise, a focus on innovations, operational excellence and an entrepreneurial leadership, Heraeus strives to continuously improve the businesses of their customers around the world. Heraeus creates high-quality solutions for their customers and strengthens their long-term competitiveness by combining material expertise with technological know-how. The ideas are focused on important issues such as the environment, energy, health, mobility and industrial applications. The portfolio ranges from components to coordinated material systems which are used in a wide variety of industries, including the steel, electronics, chemical, automotive and telecommunications industries. In the 2015 financial year, Heraeus generated revenues without precious metals of €1.9 bn and a total revenue of €12.9 bn. With approximately 12,500 employees worldwide in more than 100 subsidiaries in 38 countries, Heraeus holds a leading position in its global markets. In 2016, the Foundation for Family Businesses named Heraeus as one of the "Top 10 Family Businesses" in Germany.

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