

Press release

Cross to divest the Swiss Tools Group to Schaublin SA, a subsidiary of RBC Bearings Incorporated

Over recent years, Cross has grown Swiss Tools into a global provider of high-precision modular toolholder systems as part of a succession solution for the company. The transformation into a successful internationally oriented Swiss company was made possible by enhancement of professional excellence within the organisation and a clear strategic focus on profitable international growth. Now Cross can announce the sale of the Swiss Tools Group to Schaublin SA, a subsidiary of RBC Bearings Incorporated.

Pfäffikon, 15 August 2019 – Swiss private equity firm Cross has sold its majority stake in the Swiss Tools Group to Schaublin SA. Alongside Swiss Tool Systems AG, other key members of the Swiss Tools Group are Bär + Mettler AG and MBM AG. The company was founded in Bürglen in Thurgau, Switzerland in 1973 and has an independent sales office in China. In recent years Swiss Tools has grown to become a leading global supplier of high-precision modular toolholder systems. Swiss Tools' typical end markets include the mechanical engineering, aerospace and energy sectors.

Cross acquired the company in 2016 as part of a succession solution. Working closely with the management team, board of directors and the former majority owners, who retained a stake in the Swiss Tools Group alongside Cross, Cross worked to achieve steady and focussed development and realise plans for growth. The jointly developed growth strategy primarily targeted international growth, with a particular focus on opening up further core markets such as the USA, China, Japan and Mexico.

Swiss Tools' new owner is Schaublin SA, a Swiss subsidiary of RBC Bearings Incorporated. RBC Bearings is a listed company (NASDAQ: ROLL) and global provider of high-precision and high-specification ball bearing, roller bearing and plain bearing solutions for various industrial markets as well as the aerospace and defence industries. The company is based in Oxford, CT, in the USA and generated revenues of over USD 700 million in the 2019 fiscal year.

Markus Reich, Managing Partner of Cross Equity Partners AG: "We are delighted that through partnership with the Swiss Tools management team and executive board we have transformed Swiss Tools into a showcase company for the industry and for the Swiss SME sector in just a few short years. Our strategy of rigorous focus on growth and sustained development of a digital product portfolio ready for Industry 4.0 was received very positively in the market and took the company to the next level."

Dr Michael Petersen, Managing Partner of Cross Equity Partners AG: "Above all, effective succession solutions require mutual trust and shared objectives. Our collaboration with Swiss Tools is a shining example of how a succession solution can bring a company long-term success as well as serving the interests of all parties."

Daniel Martin, CEO of the Swiss Tools Group: "The merger with RBC brings Swiss Tools excellent strategic options for the future, both locally through cooperation with Schaublin SA and internationally via RBC's global network. Together we see lots of potential for Swiss Tools and the possibility of a strong partnership with considerable synergies."

About the Swiss Tools Group

Together with its subsidiaries Bär + Mettler AG and MBM AG, Swiss Tool Systems AG is a leading provider of high-precision modular toolholder systems. The origins of the company's product programmes lie in modular boring

systems, and it is there that the company's values such as absolute precision, high flexibility and the proverbial Swiss reliability also originate. Swiss Tools' typical end markets include the mechanical engineering, aerospace and energy sectors. The company was founded in Bürglen in Thurgau, Switzerland in 1973 and has an independent sales office in China.

Über RBC Bearings Incorporated

RBC Bearings Incorporated is an international manufacturer and marketer of highly engineered precision bearings and components. Founded in 1919, the Company is primarily focused on producing highly technical or regulated bearing products and components requiring sophisticated design, testing, and manufacturing capabilities for the diversified industrial, aerospace, and defense markets. The Company is headquartered in Oxford, Connecticut.

About Schaublin SA

Schaublin SA, a wholly owned subsidiary of RBC Bearings Incorporated, develops and manufactures bearings for aerospace, railway and industrial applications. Schaublin SA also develops and manufactures various clamping tools for turning and grinding applications. Schaublin SA is based in Délémont, Switzerland.

About Cross

Cross is a private equity company that supports small to medium-sized companies (SMEs) in Germany, Austria and Switzerland with equity capital, industrial expertise and an extensive network of contacts in sustainable development, which also includes succession planning for family businesses and subsidiary planning for corporations. Cross invests in leading and profitable SMEs with entrepreneurial management of engineering, mechanical engineering and industrial products in high-growth niche markets. As an investor who is focused on the long term, Cross supports sustainable profitable growth.

Independent Cross funds are advised exclusively by Cross Equity Partners AG, CH-Pfäffikon SZ. The Cross team has several decades of experience in private equity and industry and has successfully invested in around 30 companies in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to date.

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