



Ansell Limited
A.B.N. 89 004 085 330
Level 3, 678 Victoria Street
Richmond, Victoria 3121, Australia
GPO Box 772H Melbourne
Victoria 3001, Australia
Telephone (+613) 9270 7270
Facsimile (+613) 9270 7300
www.ansell.com

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ANSELL PURCHASES HAWKEYE GLOVE BUSINESS

Ansell Limited (ASX: ANN) today announced the acquisition of the Hawkeye Glove Company's assets. Hawkeye is the leading glove supplier to the U.S. military. The business, as required under U.S. law, manufactures all its products in the U.S. in five factories. Its management has built the business based on strong experience in sourcing Government contracts, developing new innovative gloves for military applications and a proven track record of working with the military logistics organisation.

Turnover, although traditionally variable, is in the region of US\$20 million (approximately A\$21.2 million) per annum and Hawkeye has approximately a 10% share of the U.S. military glove market.

Bill Reed, Ansell's Senior Vice President and Regional Director of the Americas' Occupational Division, said; "The military channel has been of interest to Ansell for some time. As the leading organisation in the field, Hawkeye brings an excellent opportunity for Ansell to develop its core business. We welcome Hawkeye aboard."

Doug Tough, Ansell's CEO, commented; "Hawkeye brings to Ansell knowledge, expertise and technology in a channel which will be broadly incremental to our current business. It is a true "bolt on" acquisition in a market sweet spot for Ansell. We look forward to working with Hawkeye's highly respected and knowledgeable management team and all its employees."

The purchase price is US\$10.8 million (A\$11.4 million) and the Purchase Agreement includes an earn-out clause that provides for an uplift in price if certain sales hurdles are met over the next two years.

For further information:-

Investors & Analysts

Australia

David Graham
General Manager – Finance & Treasury
Tel: (+61 3) 9270 7215 or (+61) 0401 140 749
Email: dgraham@ap.ansell.com

USA

Rustom Jilla
Chief Financial Officer
Tel: (+1 732) 345 5359
Email: rjilla@ansell.com

Ansell Ltd is a global leader in healthcare barrier protective products and is over 114 years old. With operations in the Americas, Europe and Asia, Ansell employs more than 11,000 people worldwide and holds leading positions in the natural latex and synthetic polymer glove and condom markets. Ansell operates in three main business segments: Occupational Healthcare, supplying hand protection to the industrial market; Professional Healthcare, supplying surgical and examination gloves to healthcare professionals; and Consumer Healthcare, supplying sexual health products and consumer hand protection. Information on Ansell and its products can be found at <http://www.ansell.com>.