

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ATTENTION OF SHAREHOLDERS OF

FLAT PRODUCTS EQUIPMENTS (INDIA) LIMITED

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CASH OFFER FOR ACQUISITION OF EQUITY SHARES FROM SHAREHOLDERS

This Public Announcement ("Public Announcement") is being issued by Edelweiss Capital Limited, the Manager to the Offer ("Edelweiss"), on behalf of Cockerill Maintenance & Ingenierie SA (hereinafter referred to as the "Acquirer" or "CMI") to the equity shareholders of Flat Products Equipments (India) Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "FPL" or "Target Company"), pursuant to Regulations 10 & 12 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 and subsequent amendments thereto ("SEBI (SAST) Regulations").

I. BACKGROUND TO THE OFFER

- a) Cockerill Maintenance & Ingenierie SA ("CMI" or "Acquirer"), a company incorporated on December 16, 1981, in Belgium having its registered office at, Avenue Greiner, 1, 4100 Seraing, Belgium being the Acquirer within the meaning of Regulation 2(1)(b) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, has agreed, vide Share Purchase Agreement dated January 14, 2008 ("SPA1"), with Mr. Tilakraj D. Mehta & Mrs. Nishi T. Mehta (collectively the "Sellers") to acquire 27,10,137 equity shares of face value Rs. 10/- each representing 54.89% of the paid up share capital of Flat Products Equipments (India) Limited ("FPL" or "Target Company") being the Target Company as defined in Regulation 2(1)(o) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations at a price of Rs. 517/- per share. The total consideration payable in cash for the above transaction in terms of the SPA1 is Rs. 140,11,40,829/- (Rupees One Hundred Forty Crore Eleven Lacs Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Nine Only).
- b) The Acquirer has simultaneously entered into a share purchase agreement ("SPA2") to acquire 4,00,600 equity shares of face value of Rs. 10/- each, representing 100% of the paid up share capital of NT Strips and Automation Private Limited ("NSAPL"), a private limited company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 having its registered office at Mehta House, 64, Road No. 13, MIDC, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400 093, from the Sellers at a price of Rs. 497/- per share. Since NSAPL holds 7500 equity shares of face value Rs. 10/- each, representing 0.15% of the paid up share capital of FPL, the Acquirer has directly and indirectly acquired in the aggregate 27,17,637 equity shares of face value Rs. 10/- each, representing 55.04% of the paid up share capital of FPL. The Acquirer has paid to the Sellers Rs. 19,90,98,200/- in cash in consideration for 100% of the fully paid-up equity share capital of NSAPL.
- c) The Acquirer is making an open offer to the existing public shareholders of the Target Company pursuant to and in compliance with Regulations 10 and 12 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations since more than 15% of the voting rights of the Target Company are proposed to be acquired under the SPA (SPA1 & SPA2) and will result in a and a change in the control of the Target Company.
- d) This is not a competitive bid.
- e) As of the date of this Public Announcement, the subscribed and paid up equity share capital of the Target Company is Rs. 4,93,78,130 divided into 49,37,813 outstanding equity shares ("Equity Shares") of face value of Rs. 10/- each. There are no outstanding instruments convertible into equity shares of the Target Company at a future date.
- f) As per stock exchange filings at Bombay Stock Exchange Limited ("BSE"), Ahmedabad Stock Exchange Limited ("ASE") and Delhi Stock Exchange Association Limited ("DSE") the Sellers belong to the promoter category of the Target Company.
- g) Prior to the aforementioned acquisition, the Acquirer did not hold any equity shares of the Target Company.

II. THE OFFER

- a) The acquisition of the shares of the Target Company pursuant to the SPA (SPA1 & SPA2) exceeds 15% of the voting rights in the Target Company and results in a change of control of the Target Company and therefore triggers an open offer under Regulations 10 and 12 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. Consequently, the Acquirer is making an open offer to the existing public shareholders of the Target Company to acquire upto 9,87,563 equity shares of the Target Company being 20% of the Fully Diluted Voting Capital of the Target Company ("Offer Share(s)") as on April 12, 2008, being the date which is 15 days from the date of closure of the Offer, as required under Regulation 21(5) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations at a price of Rs. 517/- per fully paid up Equity Share (the "Offer Price"), payable in cash in accordance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations and subject to the terms and conditions mentioned hereinafter (the "Offer" or "Open Offer") and the terms and conditions that will be set out in the letter of offer in relation to the Offer (the "Letter of Offer").
- b) Subject to the receipt of regulatory approvals as set out in paragraph VIII and other terms and conditions set out in the Public Announcement and the Letter of Offer, the Acquirer will acquire Equity Shares up to the extent mentioned in this Public Announcement.
- c) Upon completion of the Offer, assuming full acceptances in the Offer and taking into account the purchased shares, the Acquirer will directly and indirectly hold 37,05,200 Equity Shares of the Target Company.
- d) This Offer is being made to all the public shareholders of the Target Company and is not conditional on any minimum level of acceptances.
- e) In terms of Clause 40A of the Listing Agreement with the BSE, the Acquirer Company is required to maintain at least 25% public shareholding for listing on a continuous basis. The Acquirer undertakes to ensure compliance with the provisions of Clause 40A of the Listing Agreement.
- f) The Acquirer has not acquired nor been allotted any equity shares of the Target Company during the 52-week period prior to the date of this Public Announcement save and except that the Acquirer has undertaken to directly and indirectly purchase 27,17,637 Equity Shares in terms of the SPA1 and SPA2 as mentioned in Para I above.
- g) As at the date of this PA, Acquirer does not hold any Equity Shares of the Target Company. The respective directors of the Acquirer have not acquired any Equity Shares in the Target Company at a price above the offer price of Rs. 517/ (Rupees Five Hundred and Seventeen Only) per share, including by way of allotment in public or rights issue or by way of preferential allotment by the Target Company during the 26-week period prior to the date of this Public Announcement.
- h) The Equity Shares of the Target Company will be acquired by the Acquirer free from all liens, charges and encumbrances and together with the rights attached thereto, including all rights to dividend, bonus and rights offer declared thereof.
- i) This Offer is subject to receipt of the statutory approvals mentioned in clause 7 of the PA. In terms of Regulation 27 of the Regulations, if the statutory approvals are refused, the Offer would stand withdrawn.

III. OFFER PRICE

- a) The Equity Shares of the Target Company are listed on Bombay Stock Exchange Limited (BSE), Ahmedabad Stock Exchange Limited (ASE) and The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Limited (DSE) and are frequently traded on BSE. The annualized trading turnover based on the trading volume in the shares of the Target Company on Bombay Stock Exchange Limited during July 2007 to December 2007 (6 calendar months preceding the month in which the Public Announcement is made) is as under:

Name of Stock Exchange(s)	Total no. of shares traded during the 6 calendar months prior to the month in which PA is made	Total no. of shares traded during the 6 calendar months prior to the month in which PA is made (Annualized)	Total No. of listed Shares	Annualized Trading turnover (as a % to total listed shares)
BSE	54,04,052	1,08,08,104	49,37,813	218.88
ASE	Nil	Nil	49,37,813	Nil
DSE	Nil	Nil	49,37,813	Nil

(Source:www.bseindia.com)

Based on the information available, the equity shares of FPL are most frequently traded on the BSE (source: bseindia.com) within the meaning of explanation (i) to Regulation 20 (4) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

- b) The Offer Price of Rs. 517/- (Rupees Five Hundred and Seventeen Only) per equity share is justified in terms of Regulation 20(4) of SEBI (SAST) Regulations in view of the following:

Particulars	Price
a) Negotiated Price under SPA1	Rs. 517/- per share
b) Negotiated Price under SPA2	Rs. 497/- per share
c) Highest Price paid by the Acquirer for acquisition, including by way of allotments in a public or rights issue or Preferential issue, if any, during 26 weeks period prior to the date of Public Announcement	Not Applicable
d) The average of the weekly High and Low of the closing prices of the shares of the Target Company on the stock exchange where it is most frequently traded, during 26 weeks period preceding the date of the date of Public Announcement	Rs. 437.07 per share
e) The average of the daily High and Low of the prices of the shares of the Target Company on the stock exchange where it is most frequently traded, during the 2 week period preceding the date of the date of Public Announcement	Rs 456.58 per share

- c) The Offer price of Rs. 517/- being the highest of the above is justified.
- d) There is no non-compete agreement for payment to any person.
- e) During the Offer period, Acquirer may purchase additional equity shares of the Target Company in accordance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. In the event that the Acquirer purchases additional equity shares of the Target Company during the Offer period, such purchase shall be disclosed to the stock exchanges where the equity shares of the Target Company are listed and to the Manager to the Offer in accordance with Regulation 22(17) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- f) If the Acquirer acquires the Equity Shares of the Target Company after the date of this Public Announcement and upto 7 working days prior to the closure of the Offer at a price higher than the Offer Price, then the highest price paid for such acquisition shall be payable for all the valid applications received under the Offer.

IV. INFORMATION ON THE ACQUIRER

Cockerill Maintenance & Ingenierie SA

- a) Cockerill Maintenance & Ingenierie SA, the Acquirer, is a company incorporated under the law of Belgium on December 16, 1981 having its registered office at Avenue Greiner, 1, 4100 Seraing, Belgium. Tel:+32-0-43302243, Fax:+32-0-43302582. Mr. Bernard Serin and Mr. Pierre Meyers through their holding companies have promoted Cockerill Maintenance & Ingenierie SA.
- b) The Acquirer's Group expertise lies in maintenance and engineering which it uses to design various equipments and develop its overall performance.
- c) The issue and paid up equity share capital of CMI constitutes of 817,749 ordinary equity share aggregating to •47,000,000. The shares of CMI are not listed on any stock exchange.
- d) The Board of Directors of the Acquirer comprises of Mr. Bernard Serin, Eudemis Holding SA (represented through Mr. Pierre Meyers), Mr. Libert Frodmont, Mr. Gerard Bernard, Mr. Albert Nenon, Mr. Hans – Joachim Kruger, Mr. Jean Potier and Mr. Louis Smal.
- e) None of the directors of CMI are on the board of the Target Company. None of the directors of CMI have acquired any shares of the Target Company during the 12 month period prior to the date of this PA.
- f) Based on the Limited Review of the Accounts of the company for Nine Month Ended September 30, 2007 certified by the auditor in Euros and INR is as follows:

(Rs. in Lacs except stated otherwise)

Particular	Nine months ended September 30, 2007 (Limited Review)	Year ended December 31, 2006 (Audited)	Nine months ended September 30, 2007 (INR in Crores)	Year ended December 31, 2006 (INR in Crores)
	(Euro in Thousand)	(Euro in Thousand)		
Income from Operations	216878	251406	1266.35	1467.96
Profit After Tax	(6791)	20784	(39.65)	121.36
EPS (Euro/Rs.)	-	25.42	-	1484.05
Equity Share Capital (No. of Shares)	817749	817749	817749	817749
Paid up equity Share Capital	47000	47000	274.43	274.43
Reserves & Surplus	28647	35438	167.27	206.92
Net Worth	75647	82438	441.70	481.36
Book Value per Share (Euro/Rs.)	92.51	100.81	5401.45	5886.35
Return on Net Worth (%)	(8.98)	25.21	(8.98)	25.21

(Source: Annual Report of CMI for the year ending December 31, 2006, Company)

1 Euro = INR 58.39 (source: www.rbi.org.in) dated January 14,2008.

V. Information about the Target Company

- a) Flat Products Equipments (India) Limited (FPL) was incorporated on May 28, 1986 as private limited company. It became a deemed Public Limited Company u/s 43A of the Companies Act, 1956 in July 1992 and converted into a Public Limited Company on October 26, 1993. It has its registered office at Mehta House, 64, Road No. 13, MIDC, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400 093. Tel:+91-022-66762727 Fax:+91-022-66762737, E-mail: fpe@vsnl.com website: www.flatproducts.com. Compliance Officer: Mr. Dinesh Tripathi, Sr. Vice President.
- b) The Target Company is engaged in designing and implementation of turnkey projects of cold rolling mills, galvanizing lines, pickling lines and colour coating lines. FPL basically caters to the steel industry whereby the company undertakes greenfield projects and expansion and modernization of cold rolling mills. FPL has manufacturing facilities at Talaja, and Silvassa.
- c) The total subscribed and paid up capital of the Target Company as on the date of the Public Announcement is 49,37,813 equity shares of Rs. 10. each.
- d) FPL does not have any outstanding partly paid-up equity shares, convertible instruments, warrants or stock-options as of January 14, 2008
- e) FPL was promoted by Mr. Tilak Raj Mehta and Mrs. Nishi T Mehta. Presently the promoter and the promoter group holds 28,63,973 equity shares in the Target Company representing 58 % of the voting capital.
- f) The Board of Directors of the Target Company comprises of 7 Directors: Mr. Tilak Raj Mehta, Mrs. Nishi T. Mehta, Mr. Durgadas Sengupta, Mr. Ravindra Nath Tandon, Mr. K.R. Iyer, Mr. N.S. Datar and Mr. R.K.Chouhaan.
- g) The equity shares of the Target Company are listed on the BSE, ASE and DSE. The closing price of FPL equity shares on January 15, 2008 was Rs. 480.55 on BSE with a market capitalization of Rs. 237.28 Crores.
- h) The Target Company does not have any subsidiary as on the date of the Public Announcement.
- i) None of the persons having an interest in the Acquirer is on the Board of Directors of the Target Company.
- j) Based on the audited standalone Annual Accounts for the last financial year are as follows:

Rs. in Crore except stated otherwise

Particulars	Six months ended September 30, 2007	FY ended March 31, 2007
Net Sales (Less Excise Duty)	229.48	511.58
Profit After Tax	7.59	15.29
EPS (Rs.)	15.37	30.96
Paid up equity Share Capital	4.94	4.94
Reserves & Surplus	80.26	72.68
Networth	85.2	77.62
Book Value per Share (Rs.)	17.25	15.72
Return on Net Worth (%)	8.91	19.70

(Source: Annual Report of the Company for FY 2007 and six months ended September 30, 2007)

- k) The Price Earning Ratio as on January 15, 2008 was 15.52 based on the closing price of Rs. 480.55 on BSE and 16.70 based on the offer price of Rs 517. (Annual Report for FY 2005-06 and publicly data available)
- l) FPL has not been prohibited by SEBI from dealing in securities, in terms of directions issued under Section 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992, as amended (the "SEBI Act") or under any other Regulation made under the SEBI Act.

VI. REASONS FOR THE OFFER AND FUTURE PLANS

- a) Pursuant to the SPA1, the Acquirer has agreed to acquire 54.89% of the outstanding share capital of the Target and is making an Offer under Regulations 10 and 12 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations to the Public Shareholders of the Target Company to acquire upto 9,87,563 equity shares of Rs. 10/- each, representing in the aggregate 20% of the total Fully Diluted Voting Capital at a price of Rs. 517/- (Rupees Five Hundred and Seventeen only) per share payable in cash.
- b) The objects of the Acquirer include inter alia will to provide an extended and consistent range of products, technologies and services to the customers globally in the downstream of the Steel Industry.
- c) The acquisition will provide to customers an opportunity for acquiring a complete Cold Rolling and Galvanising Complex which the latest industry has to offer from a single source.
- d) The Acquirer does not have any plans to dispose off or otherwise encumber any assets of the Target Company in the next two years except in the ordinary course of business of the Target Company and except to the extent required for the purpose of restructuring and / or rationalization of operations, assets, investments, liabilities and otherwise of the Target Company. Notwithstanding the above, it will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Target Company to make appropriate decisions in these matters, in accordance with the requirements of the business of the Target Company.
- e) The Acquirer undertakes that it shall not sell, dispose off or otherwise encumber any substantial assets of the Target Company except with the prior approval of the shareholders of the Target Company as required under applicable law.

VII. STATUTORY APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR THE OFFER

- a) Since the Acquirer is a foreign entity the Offer is subject to the receipt of approval from Reserve Bank of India ("RBI") under the Foreign Exchange Management Act ("FEMA"), to acquire upto 20% of the voting rights of the Target Company through Open Offer. The Acquirer will submit an application to the RBI for its approval for the acquisition of Equity Shares under the Open Offer.
- b) Save and except for the above, to the best knowledge and belief of the Acquirer, as on the date of this Public Announcement, no other statutory approval are required to acquire the equity shares tendered pursuant to this Offer. If any other statutory approvals are required or become applicable, the Offer would be subject to the receipt of such other statutory approvals. Acquirer will not proceed with the offer in the event any statutory approval indicated herein is not obtained in terms of Regulation 27 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- c) In case of delay