

Coca-Cola Hellenic Austria commits to Austria and invests €40 million in operation centre Edelstal

Vienna, February 2nd, 2012. – **In 2012, Coca-Cola Hellenic Austria consolidates production and logistics in one location. The company’s production site for Römerquelle mineral water in Burgenland’s Edelstal will be expanded into a modern, efficient manufacturing and warehousing operation. €40 million will be invested to guarantee competitiveness on a European level and to secure Austria as a business location on a long-term basis.**

„With an innovative concept we gained support from all parties to commit to a sizeable investment in Austria. We will now combine two manufacturing operations into one. That will secure and strengthen our total Austrian operation with over 1,000 employees for the long term“, says the General Manager of Coca-Cola Hellenic Austria, Barry O’Connell. “At a time when all businesses must look to maximize efficiencies it no longer made sense for us to operate two major manufacturing and logistics facilities within 60 km of each other.”

The current manufacturing operation at Vienna’s Triester Strasse dates back to the 1950ies and faces significant restrictions in terms of future expansion. Therefore, in the course of this year the Edelstal site will be extended into a modern manufacturing and warehousing operation. Besides the existing Römerquelle mineral water lines, brand names like Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, will also be produced in Edelstal and distributed from there.

“We offer our employees the option to accompany us to Edelstal, unfortunately that will not be possible for all of them. It is envisaged that when the new operation is functional it will require approximately 80 positions less than the current setup. We do not take this decision easily as many have worked for us for a long time. Therefore it is very important to me personally to work closely with the works council - there have to be good solutions for a good team“ says the General Manager. A comprehensive social plan comes into effect. However, the support for the Viennese employees goes far beyond that. Individual talks will be held with all affected employees over the next weeks.

Business location Edelstal: Future with Tradition

For more than 40 years Römerquelle has filled mineral water in Edelstal and is established as a traditional yet innovative beverage producer. Equipped with sufficient space for future expansion and due to its proximity to Vienna, the site offers ideal conditions. Sustainability is a focus area of the project, starting from modern technology to maximise use of resources from construction to production.

Construction of the new site will start in the spring of 2012. In the fall, the transfer of production lines from Vienna to Edelstal will take place. In the first quarter of 2013, the production and logistics centre will be fully operational at the new site with around 250 employees.

Several departments of Coca-Cola Hellenic such as sales, customer service and administration will remain in the headquarters on Triester Strasse. "In 2012 we will concentrate on modernising and restructuring our production and logistics area. As soon as this is finished we will evaluate the office site in Vienna. This important decision needs to be carefully examined as well. Triester Strasse has been our home for almost 60 years and has accompanied the company's great success story", says Barry O'Connell.

Questions and further information:

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