

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HELLANOR WILL BECOME NDS GROUP**

NDS stands for Nordic Distribution & Service and underlines the growth strategy to begin a new era as a one-stop-shop distribution and service provider in the Nordic region. The company has been an important partner to the Automotive Aftermarket since its establishment in 1963. The new branding marks an important milestone in the complete renewal and modernization of the company.

### **A CLEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

“Our customers become best in their business”, is the core vision and stands for the high customer orientation of the wholesale solution & service provider. Janno Gröne, CEO of NDS Group: “The NDS Group will be a reliable and professional partner helping its customers to be ready for the future. In September 2019 we will launch a specialized ERP system for Automotive Workshops, which demonstrates our position as an innovative solution provider. It is our mission to grow a sustainable and innovative business to the benefit of all partners. As a fast and agile company with passionate employees we will help our customers be the best and create high customer value in the entire Nordic region.”

### **A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PLAN**

Aurelius, a Munich and London based pan- European investment group, acquired Hellanor in December 2018. After the carve-out from the Hella Group the company has been streamlined and turned into a dynamic stand-alone business. Benefitting from the heightened attention, a comprehensive development and investment plan has been established which includes the launch of a new B2B order platform, a CRM system and the modernization of the logistic set-up. All strategic partners are onboard for this on the exciting journey and NDS will continuously innovate and update the wide product assortment.

### **STRENGTHENING THE AUTOMESTER CHAIN**

Whilst the branding of the workshop chain “Automester” will remain unchanged, the members will benefit from the modernization of the NDS Group. A dedicated investment plan for the workshop chain is one of the core elements of the new growth plan. Automester Board members Sjur Eide from Austevoll Auto and Terje Bjaanes from AutoMarin were guests of honor during the announcement of the new branding underlining the strong relationship between NDS and the chain members.

### **AUTOMATERIELL DIVISION DEMONSTRATES STRONG GROWTH**

The workshop equipment division “Automateriell” will also keep its branding. Automateriell showed a very strong growth and recently won a major contract in the Heavy- Duty segment. The division is currently expanding its technician-network and recruiting additional sales representatives throughout the entire country.

### **REBRANDING WILL BE COMPLETED EARLY AUGUST**

The rebranding will be completed by early August 2019. All services and deliveries will continue unchanged during this period.

## **ABOUT NDS**

NDS is the second-largest automotive aftermarket wholesaler in Norway, with headquarters in Skytta near Oslo. NDS supplies its customers, typically automotive workshops, car dealerships and local wholesalers, with spare parts from its central warehouse in Skytta as well as from 19 branches across the country. In addition, NDS offers workshop franchise concepts to its clients under its own AutoMester brand as well as for third-party concepts such as Bosch Car Service. Within its AutoMateriell business segment NDS supplies workshop equipment of leading equipment OEMs such as John Bean and MAHA.

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## **ABOUT AURELIUS**

AURELIUS Group is a pan-European investment group with offices in Munich, London, Stockholm, Madrid and Amsterdam. Since it was founded in 2006, AURELIUS has grown from a local turnaround investor to an international multi-asset manager.

AURELIUS Equity Opportunities SE & Co. KGaA (ISIN: DE000A0JK2A8, ticker symbol: AR4) represents the listed entity within the AURELIUS Group that focuses on investing in special and turnaround situations and mid-market transaction opportunities in a broad range of industries. AURELIUS Equity Opportunities currently has 21 portfolio companies located across Europe which employ around 15,000 people and generate annual revenues of approx. than EUR 3.8 billion. The shares of AURELIUS Equity Opportunities are traded on all German stock exchanges. The company's market capitalization is approximately EUR 1.2 billion (as of June 2019).

The AURELIUS Group also operates in the areas of growth capital, real estate opportunities and debt. AURELIUS Growth Capital invests in successor solutions and spin-offs from larger mid-sized companies and corporate groups. AURELIUS Real Estate Opportunities focuses on real estate investments, particularly in projects with operational improvement potential, the value of which can be increased in the long-term by means of active management. AURELIUS Finance Company is an alternative direct lender, focused on providing debt solutions to small and mid-market firms across Europe. With its group charity AURELIUS Refugee Initiative e.V., AURELIUS provides comprehensive support for refugees on their way towards a better life.

To find out more, visit [www.aureliusinvest.de](http://www.aureliusinvest.de).

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