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HUBER+SUHNER strengthens position in its core market WAN / Access Networks with the acquisition of the BKtel Group

HUBER+SUHNER signed the purchase agreement to acquire BKtel yesterday, 30 September 2019. BKtel has three locations in Germany and holds majority participations in two companies in France and Japan. With 150 employees, the company generates sales of around CHF 45 million. BKtel develops, manufactures and implements active and passive components for broadband networks and has extensive expertise in fiber-to-the-home (FTTH), hybrid fiber coax (HFC) and distributed access architecture (DAA) as well as optical signal processing (optical converters, amplifiers and fiber lasers). The purchase price is approximately CHF 50 million. Subject to the approval of the German Bundeskartellamt (Federal Cartel Office), the deal is expected to close in December. The acquisition will be financed exclusively from the company's own funds.

BKtel was founded in 1997 as part of a management buy-out by former employees of Alcatel Kabel Deutschland. In addition to the founders, who hold the majority of BKtel, BWK Unternehmensbeteiligungsgesellschaft is also among the owners. Its headquarters are in Hückelhoven-Baal, North Rhine-Westphalia. Further sites are located in Kornwestheim near Stuttgart and Rosenheim in Bavaria. The product range includes optical transmission devices such as transmitters, amplifiers and receivers as well as cable TV headends and radio frequency amplifiers. The company also plans, installs and commissions these systems for network operators. BKtel achieves the majority of its sales in Germany. An additional boost in this geographic core market is likely to come from the German government's plans to expand the broadband network.

BKtel Photonics in France is a leader in various optical amplifier and fiber laser technologies, which are to be used both in optical transmission technology and in the future-oriented field of 3D scanners (LIDAR), for example in 3D landscape scanning or for surveying the vehicle surroundings during autonomous driving.

"The acquisition will significantly strengthen our position in the core market WAN / Access Networks," says Urs Ryffel, CEO of HUBER+SUHNER. "BKtel has a strong position with important network operators in Germany. This will enable us in future to offer these customers complete network solutions consisting of active and passive components from a single source. The BKtel know-how ideally complements the existing competencies of HUBER+SUHNER with active access network components and data laser technology. With BKtel, we are also acquiring an economically strong company that will contribute to the profitability of HUBER+SUHNER from day one," continues Ryffel.

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"I am delighted to become part of the HUBER+SUHNER Group," notes Dr. Jürgen Seidenberg, co-founder and CEO of BKtel. "The Group has an excellent reputation in the German market and offers an industrial environment that allows us to further grow. Thanks to the global structures of HUBER+SUHNER, we will be able to tap new geographical markets for our products and services. I am particularly pleased that BKtel will play an important role in the future as a competence center within HUBER+SUHNER due to its complementary activities," Seidenberg concludes.

This media release is also available on the website under Company/Media. The German version is binding.

BKtel

BKtel develops components for FTTH, video overlay, HFC and DAA broadband networks as well as LIDAR applications such as 3D landscape scanning or surveying the surroundings during autonomous driving. The product portfolio comprises a wide range of high-performance components, from fiber lasers, optical transmitters, optical amplifiers, optical receivers and fiber-optic end-user devices to DWDM technologies for Converged Integrated Networks (CIN).
More information about BKtel can be found at www.bktel.com.

HUBER+SUHNER Group

HUBER+SUHNER is a global company with headquarters in Switzerland which develops and manufactures components and system solutions for electrical and optical connectivity. With cables, connectors and systems – developed from the three core technologies of radio frequency, fiber optics and low frequency – the company serves customers in the communication, transportation and industrial sectors. The products deliver high performance, quality, reliability and long life – even under harsh environment conditions. Our global production network, combined with group companies and agencies in over 80 countries, puts HUBER+SUHNER close to its customers. Further information on the company can be found at hubersuhner.com.

HUBER+SUHNER AG
CC & Global Sustainability
9100 Herisau
Switzerland

Axel Rienitz
Press Office
Phone +41 44 952 2560
pressoffice@hubersuhner.com