



6 August 2007

Startronics merges with Sanmina in Australia

Startronics Pty Ltd ("Startronics") today announced that a merger with Sanmina's Australian operations had been successfully completed. Startronics is owned and controlled by Pacific Equity Partners and Allen Capital Private Equity, and is the market leader in electronics manufacturing in Australia. Sanmina is a global electronics manufacturer listed on the NASDAQ.

The merged entity will trade under the name of Startronics. This deal is significant as it will form the largest electronics manufacturing services company in Australia by combining the local market leader with the largest offshore player operating in the region.

As a result of the merger, Startronics will be able to provide its clients with global sourcing of products and components at internationally competitive prices. Startronics clients will also benefit from an expanding geographical footprint of high quality facilities across Australia and New Zealand. This will enhance opportunities for working closely with clients to optimise design, minimise turnaround times and inventory holdings on a globally cost competitive basis.

Startronics new CEO Paul Appleby said Sanmina's Australian operations complemented the Startronics business and would enhance services for clients of the electronic manufacturing and repairs business.

"The merger of Startronics with Sanmina's Australian operations will allow us to take advantage of economies of scale and benefit from the global network Sanmina brings," said Mr Appleby.

"We are growing our presence with operations in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Wellington and we will also have opportunities to facilitate high-volume, low-cost manufacturing through Sanmina's Asian facilities where appropriate."

Startronics Group Director Sales & Marketing, Jeff Thomas, who is joining Startronics following ten years with Sanmina in Australia, agreed that the merger was a win for existing and potential clients.

"The merged company will be well positioned to serve client needs with a presence in New Zealand and on the Australian eastern and western seaboard," said Mr Thomas.

"We can therefore be in close and regular contact with our customers, no matter where they are located allowing more scope for hands on design modification, quick turnaround and speedy delivery."

For further information contact:

Lauren Thompson

0438 954 729

lauren@thirdperson.net.au

About Startronics

Startronics provides a wide range of electronic manufacturing services into a diverse range of markets including banking, defence, communications, traffic control, medical and gaming in Australia and New Zealand. In addition to electronic manufacturing, Startronics offers a range of related specialist services including electro-mechanical assembly, remedial maintenance and repairs, test and prototyping, RTO-approved training, warehousing and distribution and equipment disposal brokering.

About Sanmina-SCI

Headquartered in San Jose, California, Sanmina-SCI is a leading EMS provider focused on delivering complete end-to-end manufacturing capabilities and highly complex solutions to technology companies around the world. Strategic advantages include:

- *Total manufacturing solution*
- *World-class manufacturing facilities in 19 countries and five continents*
- *Product design and engineering resources*
- *Advanced supply chain management*
- *Expertise in select end markets*
- *New Product Introduction (NPI) and preproduction*
- *Logistics and post-manufacturing repair/warranty*
- *Quality, flexibility and responsiveness*
- *Common IT platform*
- *Customer-focused organization*

About PEP

PEP is the most active private equity fund in Australia and New Zealand, providing strategic management experience and capital resources to grow companies in a range of business situations. PEP Fund IV is the largest private equity fund in Australia and the firm has over \$4.5 billion of equity funds under management. Since its establishment in 1998, PEP has made 18 portfolio company acquisitions and more than 20 add-on acquisitions at the company level.

PEP currently has 12 companies in its portfolio with combined revenues in excess of \$3 billion per annum, spanning industries including food, liquor, technology, financial record-keeping and retail trade. In the past year, PEP has acquired:

- *Veda Advantage* – The leading provider of business and financial intelligence services through the use of financial record-keeping, analytics and technology.
- *Independent Liquor* – A leading manufacturer and distributor of alcoholic beverages in Australia and New Zealand, with a particular focus in the ready-to-drink (RTD) category.
- *Australian Administration Services (AAS)* – A provider of administration services to the superannuation and retail master trust industries. AAS has been merged with Link Market Services, a share registrar and analytic business also owned by PEP.

Detailed information about PEP's entire portfolio and its exited investments can be found at www.pep.com.au.

About Allen Capital Private Equity

Allen Capital Private Equity is the investment manager of the Allen Capital Special Situation Fund No.1. The purpose of the Fund is to focus on a highly specialised private equity market niche – special situation or event-driven investing. With a bias towards enhancing business performance, Allen Capital Private Equity is ideally suited as an investor and partner in businesses that are in transition, especially those addressing significant changes in their competitive landscape.