

Paris, October 9, 2006

## **WEINBERG CAPITAL PARTNERS JOINS FORCES WITH THE FOUNDING SHAREHOLDERS OF ALLIANCE INDUSTRIE**

Weinberg Capital Partners announces that it is acquiring a stake, alongside the founding shareholders, in Alliance Industrie, a leading player in the distribution of parts and services for the auto and truck industries in France and the United Kingdom.

The investment by the private equity firm created and managed by Serge Weinberg is designed to support Alliance Industrie's growth strategy.

Serge Weinberg declared: "This investment by Weinberg Capital Partners, alongside Jean-Jacques Lafont and a remarkable management team, in this specialized European business-to-business distribution company is a perfect illustration of our strategy. The combination of industrial experience and financial know-how will help Alliance Industrie pursue its European expansion."

Jean-Jacques Lafont, Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Industrie since 1991, added: "The interest shown by Serge Weinberg, who has vast experience of business-to-business distribution from his past as CEO of Rexel from 1990 to 1996, then of PPR from 1995 to 2005, is excellent news for our profession in general and our company in particular. This partnership reinforces the profitable growth strategy we have pursued for the past 15 years and provides an important sign of continuity for all our stakeholders: independent network members, customers, suppliers and staff."

*Weinberg Capital Partners is a private equity firm created by Serge Weinberg, the former chairman of the management board of PPR, and his three partners, Guillaume d'Angerville, Henri Gagnaire and Philippe Klocanas. Its 420 million euro private equity fund WCP#1 aims to accompany the development of midsized European companies, principally in France and Southern Europe, in all sectors except new technologies. WCP announced in May the acquisition of a majority stake in the pharmaceutical company Pharma Omnium International to finance the acquisition of Laboratoires Biodim.*

*The Alliance Industrie group is active in the distribution of parts and services for the automobile and truck industries in France and the United Kingdom. It provides services through subsidiaries or independent network members federated under the Groupauto Union France or Groupauto Union UK banners. In 2005, the group posted consolidated turnover of €550 million and had almost 2,000 employees.*

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