



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Nanogate AG increases stake in GfO AG**

**Equity interest up from 51 to 75 per cent plus one share – New projects expected in rapidly expanding glazing segment**

**Göttelborn, Germany, 23 May 2013. Nanogate AG (ISIN DE000A0JKHC9), a leading international integrated systems provider for high-performance surfaces, is increasing its stake in GfO AG from 51 to 75 per cent plus one share following strong business performance and new planned projects. Nanogate acquired the equity holding in summer 2010 and with it an option to purchase the remaining shares. Interest in innovative plastics with glass-like properties (glazing) is growing continuously.**

GfO specialises in the visual and technical enhancement of three-dimensional components such as headlights and other high-quality plastic elements. Its current orders include the supply of anti-fog coatings for headlights to Land Rover. Furthermore, the company possesses a unique inkjet technology for the efficient enhancement of complex surface geometries.

Nanogate sees particular growth opportunities in the dynamic market for glazing systems with high-tech plastics. GfO has already been working for a long time in this field together with Plastic-Design GmbH, a Nanogate holding acquired in November 2012. Experts predict a sharp rise in demand for transparent and coloured glazed plastics, especially in the automotive sector. They may even replace glass in a large number of applications. Many new products are only possible thanks to innovative plastics.

Ralf Zastrau, CEO of Nanogate AG, commented: "In the long term, innovative plastics with glass-like properties will be indispensable, especially in the automotive sector. They enable new designs as well as weight reduction. GfO is



ideally positioned in this market and supplies numerous premium manufacturers. Nanogate is increasing its stake in order to pool the expertise within the Group. We intend to create an integrated centre of excellence in order to assume a leading role in the glazing market. It will offer development, production and subsequent enhancement in one system, with which Nanogate can lay the foundations for further profitable growth.”

**Nanogate on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/nanogate\\_ag](http://twitter.com/nanogate_ag)**

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**Nanogate AG:**

Nanogate is a leading international integrated systems provider for high-performance surfaces. The Group, which is based in Göttelborn (Saarland), enables the programming and integration of additional properties – such as non-stick, scratchproof and anti-corrosive – into materials and surfaces. Nanogate opens up the diverse possibilities of multifunctional surfaces based on new materials for companies in a wide range of industries.

Nanogate provides its customers with technologically and optically high-quality systems. To do so, the company uses its extensive knowledge of innovative materials, including existing expertise in nanomaterials, nanosurfaces and nanostructures. The aim is to improve products and processes by means of high-performance surfaces while achieving environmental benefits. The Group concentrates on the four sectors of Automotive/Mechanical Engineering, Buildings/Interiors, Sport/Leisure and Functional Textiles. Nanogate has a unique combination of extensive materials expertise paired with comprehensive, first-class process and production know-how. As a systems provider, Nanogate offers services throughout the entire value chain, from the purchase of raw materials, to the synthesis and formulation of the material systems, right through to the enhancement and production of the finished surfaces. Nanogate focuses primarily on optically high-quality plastic and metal coatings for all surface types (two and three-dimensional components). Its value drivers are the opening up of new, international markets, the development of new applications for the growth markets innovative plastics (e.g. glazing) and energy efficiency, as well as external growth. In the medium term, Nanogate also intends to achieve a considerable revenue share from environmentally friendly systems and cleantech applications.



The Nanogate Group has first-class customer references (e.g. Airbus, Audi, BMW, Bosch-Siemens Haushaltsgeräte, Junkers, Kärcher, Hörmann Group and Jaguar). Several hundred projects have already gone into mass production. The company also has strategic partnerships with many international corporations. Nanogate comprises Nanogate Industrial Solutions GmbH, Eurogard B.V., Nanogate Textile & Care Systems GmbH, a majority stake in GfO Gesellschaft für Oberflächentechnik AG and a strategic 76 % holding in Plastic-Design GmbH.

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