



PRESS RELEASE

Intention to takeover all the shares of the company Pivovarna Laško, d.d.

Today, the Management board of the company Poslovni sistem Mercator, d.d., decided to announce a takeover bid for the company Pivovarna Laško, d.d., and submit notice to the Securities Market Agency, Competition Protection Office of the Republic of Slovenia and to the Management board and employee representatives of the target company.

The company Poslovni sistem Mercator, d.d., estimates that the strategic alliance with Pivovarna Laško, d.d., can create a positive economic and financial effects, particularly:

- restructuring of the Laško Group in order to ensure its financial stability and increase business efficiency;
- internationalization sales activities support in the Western Balkan region in order to increase the volume of business activities;
- long-term cooperation in the field of manufacturing products for Mercator private label lines;
- implementation of synergies in the area of catering and hospitality with the Mercator Group wholesale segment;
- real estate optimisation and analysing the possibility for inclusion in the Mercator's real estate monetization project;
- divestment of non-strategic activities and look for the appropriate strategic partner for their long term development and successful operations.

Competition protection aspects will be taken into account during the implementation. The company Poslovni sistem Mercator, d.d., intends to perform adequate interviews and other acts in connection with the Competition protection office of the Republic of Slovenia, before announcing the takeover bid.

The company will engage legal and financial advisors who will support the preparation of the takeover bid and will also participate in the transaction structuring. The company Poslovni sistem Mercator, d.d. has available funds, possibility to increase the share capital (up to 20% of the share capital) and to use existing treasury shares to carry-out the takeover. Given that Mercator Group is already cooperating with International Financial Corporation (IFC) in the financial operations, Mercator Group intends to invite IFC and also other possible reputable international financial institutions to participate in the above mentioned strategic alliance, while we emphasize that no interviews in this respect with IFC or any other institutions have been carried out.

According to the preliminary analysis Mercator Group is capable to carry out strategic alliance and financial restructuring of the Laško Group following the above-mentioned starting point, particularly taking into account the planned monetization of Mercator's real estate in 2012 and 2013, a high level of financial strength and an excellent relationship with its financial partners. Detailed plans relating the strategic alliance will be presented while preparing a takeover bid or a prospectus.

Management board