



Press Release

Ergon Capital Partners III acquires the majority of Sausalitos, a leading German leisure restaurant chain.

Brussels, 28 May 2014 – Ergon Capital Partners III (“Ergon”) announced today that it has acquired the majority of Sausalitos Holding GmbH (the “Company”), one of the leading German leisure restaurant chains operating under the brand name “Sausalitos”, from Thomas Hirschberger, founder, and EQT Expansion Capital II. Thomas Hirschberger will re-invest in the Company alongside Ergon and the management team.

Sausalitos, which was created in 1994 and operates today a network of 27 restaurants across Germany, has built its success on a unique concept combining innovative cocktails and high-quality Californian-Mexican cuisine served in a trendy and friendly atmosphere. Over 4 million customers, mainly 18 to 30 years-old lifestyle-conscious guests, visit the Company’s restaurants each year.

Commenting on the acquisition, Thomas Berger, CEO, said: “the management team is excited to have Ergon as a new majority shareholder and is looking forward to pursuing together the tremendous growth opportunities of Sausalitos”. Thomas Hirschberger added: “Sausalitos is today at a key milestone in its history. I am pleased that the Company will benefit in the future from the extensive experience and strong track record that Ergon has in expanding businesses across Europe”.

“Ergon is enthusiastic to team up with the management team led by Thomas Berger and the founding Hirschberger family to support Sausalitos’ ambitious expansion strategy. We are committed to support the ongoing roll-out of Sausalitos’ highly successful business model in Germany and abroad” said Wolfgang de Limburg, managing director of Ergon. “Sausalitos has a distinctive positioning with a clear focus in a highly attractive niche of the gastronomy market” adds Nils Lüssem, principal at Ergon Capital Advisors.

Closing of the transaction is subject to customary anti-trust approvals.

About Sausalitos Holding GmbH

Founded in 1994 and headquartered in Munich, Germany, Sausalitos is one of the fastest-growing German restaurant chains, with an average sales growth of 10% per annum over the past five years. Specialized in a wide range of cocktails and Californian Mexican dishes, the Company has a strong position in the German leisure gastronomy segment. Sausalitos operates 27 restaurants across Germany and employs more than 800 people.

For more information on Sausalitos please visit www.sausalitos.de



About Ergon Capital Partners III

Ergon Capital Partners III is a mid-market private equity investment firm backed by Groupe Bruxelles Lambert (“GBL”). Together with the two initial investment programs, Ergon Capital Partners and Ergon Capital Partners II (backed by GBL and Parcom Capital), Ergon manages €775 million of committed capital. Ergon is a disciplined and discreet value investor, which provides "patient and friendly capital" to entrepreneurs and managers, who need capital and industrial solutions to accelerate the development of their companies. Ergon makes equity investments from €20 million up to €70 million in leading companies with a sustainable competitive position in attractive niche markets located in the Benelux, Italy, Iberia, France, Germany and Switzerland. Ergon is advised by Ergon Capital Advisors which has offices in Brussels, Milan, Madrid and Paris.

Since its inception in 2005, Ergon has invested in 13 companies (of which 4 in the Benelux, 6 in Italy, 1 in France, 1 in Spain and 1 in Germany) for a total aggregate transaction value of €2.6 billion and has completed 18 add-on acquisitions for an aggregate value of €400 million. Including Sausalitos, Ergon’s current portfolio consists of 9 companies in various sectors encompassing luxury, specialty retail, industrial manufacturing, healthcare and media.

For more information on Ergon please visit www.ergoncapital.com