

Press Release

## **Leading logistics group Duvenbeck and Waterland Private Equity establish growth partnership**

**Hamburg/Bocholt, Germany, 14 January 2022 – Investment group Waterland Private Equity (“Waterland”) has acquired a majority share in the Duvenbeck Group. With about 6,000 employees and annual turnover recently reaching approximately EUR 700 million, Duvenbeck is one of Europe’s leading providers of transport and logistics solutions. The company will retain its previous sole owner Thomas Duvenbeck as a key shareholder. He will continue to assist the Group in all strategic development matters, including as chairperson of the advisory board. The transaction remains subject to the usual antitrust approvals, while further financial details have not been disclosed.**

The Duvenbeck Group is a family-owned business established in 1932 that is headquartered in Bocholt, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. The company maintains a total of 33 locations in eight countries. Duvenbeck is a full-service logistics service provider in the areas of design, forwarding and contract logistics. The company also offers cross-docking, sequencing and trailer yards. Duvenbeck operates more than 1,500 of its own heavy goods vehicles, which are primarily used for automotive and industry customers as well as for the agricultural machinery industry. The company’s sales have increased more than seven-fold in the past 15 years.

Duvenbeck’s strong growth will be leveraged further in the future with support from its new majority shareholder, Waterland. The focus here is on the expansion of the company’s internationalisation strategy, the development of core competencies and expanding into new customer segments in the medium term. Furthermore, as a buy-&-build investor Waterland also puts an emphasis on regular strategic purchases in order to sustainably accelerate the growth of its portfolio companies.

Seller Thomas Duvenbeck, who shall be chairperson of the advisory board, notes: “As we looked for a long-term partner for our well-established company our top priorities were an entrepreneurial mind-set, collaboration on a level playing field and a commitment by both partners to continuing our long-standing business relationships with customers and suppliers on an ongoing basis. Waterland won our trust thanks to its impressive track record and an attractive, forward-looking growth strategy for the entire Group. My family-owned business is in good hands.”

Duvenbeck’s Managing Director Christian Schweckhorst adds: “Duvenbeck has always been hugely proud of its distinctive corporate culture. It was important to us that a new shareholder would understand, share and actively live up to our corporate values. During our discussions with Waterland, the chemistry felt good right from the start. We are confident that we have found an ideal long-term companion in Waterland.”

“Duvenbeck offers the market an exceptionally high level of quality and is extremely well positioned thanks to long-standing partnerships with well-known customers, innovative concepts and a high degree of reciprocal esteem towards its employees”, explains Dr. Carsten Rahlfs, Managing Partner at Waterland. “We want to build on this very solid base and systematically develop Duvenbeck’s formula for success, thereby bringing tangible benefits both to customers and to the entire Group. We are looking forward to our collaboration.”

Waterland has extensive experience in the field of logistics and industrial outsourcing and currently has investments in Global Transport Solutions Group (a 4PL provider with a focus on spare parts for ships) and Dematra (storage and distribution).

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### **About Duvenbeck**

The Duvenbeck Group is a fully integrated logistics company with an international presence. With more than 6,000 employees in over 30 locations across eight countries, Duvenbeck is one of Europe’s leading logistics companies. Formed in 1932, the company is a full-service logistics service provider in the fields of design, forwarding and contract logistics and also offers cross-docking, sequencing and trailer yards. Duvenbeck operates around 1,500 heavy goods vehicles, which are primarily used for well-known customers from the automotive and automotive supplier, consumer goods, plastics and agricultural automotive industries. For more information see: [www.duvenbeck.de](http://www.duvenbeck.de)

### **About Waterland**

Waterland is an independent private equity investment group that supports businesses in realizing their growth ambitions. With substantial financial resources and industry expertise, Waterland enables its portfolio companies to achieve accelerated growth both organically and through acquisitions. Waterland has offices in the Netherlands (Bussum), Belgium (Antwerp), France (Paris), Germany (Hamburg and Munich), Poland (Warsaw), the UK (London and Manchester), Ireland (Dublin), Denmark (Copenhagen), Spain (Barcelona) and Switzerland (Zurich). The company currently manages more than EUR 9 billion of investor commitments.

Since its foundation in 1999, Waterland has consistently achieved above-average performance with its investments. Globally, the company is ranked fifth in the *HEC/Dow Jones Private Equity Performance Ranking 2020* and is ranked eighth in the *Preqin Consistent Performers in Global Private Equity & Venture Capital Report 2020* among global private equity firms. In addition, Real Deals has awarded Waterland the title *Pan-European House of the Year 2020* in the PE Award.

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