

17th August 2009

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**DARWIN PRIVATE EQUITY ACQUIRES HAMPSON AEROSPACE MACHINING
FOR £23.7 MILLION**

Darwin Private Equity (“Darwin”) has completed its second transaction, with the acquisition of the aerospace machining division of Hampson Industries PLC for £23.7 million.

Hampson Aerospace Machining Limited (“HAML”) is a manufacturer and supplier of complex, highly engineered, performance-critical components for the commercial aerospace, military & defence and power generation markets. It serves a blue-chip customer base of gas turbine engine OEMs such as Rolls-Royce and Siemens and Tier 1 aerospace equipment suppliers such as Messier-Dowty and Goodrich. HAML operates from three sites in the Midlands and has its headquarters in Birmingham. There are c. 300 employees. Following the acquisition, HAML will be renamed and trade as Bromford Industries.

The acquisition by Darwin follows the decision by Hampson Industries PLC to focus on developing its advanced composites businesses in components and tooling systems.

Mike Smith, CEO of HAML, commented: “We are delighted to have found a partner in Darwin Private Equity who shares our passion for excellence. We have a great team here and with the support of Darwin, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for the business.”

Kevin Street, partner of Darwin Private Equity, commented: “HAML is a leading aerospace component manufacturer and Mike and his team have done an excellent job over recent years. We believe HAML is a good platform for growth and we plan to invest in the business to build upon its market-leading position.”

Joining the existing management team as part of the transaction are John Hudson OBE, as Chairman, and Jeff Walker FCA, as Finance Director. Both John and Jeff have a long-standing relationship with the Darwin Private Equity team, having worked with them on previous transactions.

John Hudson is a well-known industrialist who has spent many years working with engineering companies in and around Birmingham. He has been Chairman of Birmingham International Airport since 1997 and is a former president of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Jeff Walker has worked with John in private equity backed businesses for 10 years and will provide valuable knowledge and support for the existing management team as they make the transition to a private equity environment.

The Acquisition Finance team within Lloyds TSB Corporate Markets committed 100% of the acquisition debt financing for the transaction.

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About Darwin

Darwin Private Equity LLP is an independent private equity firm investing in UK businesses with enterprise values of between £10 million and £100 million.

Darwin was founded in 2007 by Derek Elliott and Kevin Street, formerly of Permira, and Jonathan Kaye, formerly of CVC. Together, the founders have completed over £10 billion of private equity transactions including a number of high-profile buy-outs such as The Automobile Association, All3Media, Formula One, IG Group and Travelodge.

Darwin is currently investing from Darwin Private Equity I LP which has commitments totalling £217 million from blue chip investors including Goldman Sachs, Pantheon Ventures, LGT Capital Partners and RIT Capital Partners plc.

In December 2007, Darwin completed its first investment with the acquisition of Maximuscle, the UK's leading sports nutrition business, for £75 million. Since then, the group has traded strongly with double digit sales growth as it continues to attract new consumers into the business and extend the brand further into mainstream retail. Organisationally the business continues to mature under the leadership of Peter Boddy. The outlook for the coming year is similarly encouraging, through a combination of focused brand and product development and an increased presence internationally.

www.darwinpe.com