



APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Hartest Holdings plc, the AIM-listed specialist in the provision of scientific and medical equipment, is pleased to announce the appointment of Geoffrey Spink as the Group's Chief Executive Officer. Geoff Spink, 55, a chartered accountant, has some 25 years leadership experience in UK listed companies, venture capital-backed and private companies, including more than 10 years as Group Managing Director of Protean plc. Protean plc was a main market listed group specialising in scientific equipment and consumables, whose annual sales grew from £10 million to £85 million under his tenure.

Since flotation in July 1999, Hartest has established itself as the choice supplier of scientific and medical instruments in a number of niche markets both at home and abroad. The appointment of a Group CEO at this time will enhance the Group's ability to exploit its progress to date and to accelerate its sales growth, both organically across its existing divisions and through further acquisitions.

David Leeming, Chairman, commented:

"I am delighted to welcome Geoff to Hartest at this very exciting time in the Group's development. Over the past four and a half years we have identified a number of areas of strong demand for our products, and established the necessary commercial relationships to grow into those areas. Following a period of consolidation, we now feel that we are in a position to take Hartest to the next stage in its development. Geoff has an enormous amount of experience in growing smaller companies, and in corporate transactions, and I have no doubt that he is ideal to take the Group forward."

Mr Spink's current and previous directorships and partnerships over the past five years are as follows:

Current:

TTG Europe plc, GTMS Services Limited, Trident Analytical Limited¹, Trident Ventures Limited^{1,2}, G Cussons Holdings Limited^{1,2}, G Cussons Limited^{1,2}, Trident Overseas Holdings Limited^{1,2}

Previous:

Ward Patents Limited, Optim Electronics Limited, Trident Optim Limited

(1) Administrative Receivers appointed 30 August 2001

(2) Subsidiary of Trident Analytical Limited

Save for the information disclosed above there is no other information falling to be disclosed under schedule 2 paragraph (f) of the AIM Rules.