

manroland in negotiations to purchase WIFAG

Letter of intent signed, deal to be agreed this spring

manroland AG is negotiating the purchase of WIFAG AG, the Bern specialist for high-quality newspaper printing solutions. The corresponding letter of intent was signed. Negotiations should be finalized in spring.

By integrating the press and service business, manroland AG rounds its product and service portfolio and sustainably strengthens its position in newspaper printing, and its regional presence. "Our industry is marked by an ongoing and necessary consolidation. The current situation allows us to actively grasp the opportunities in the market to strengthen our business," says Gerd Finkbeiner, CEO of manroland.

For customers and business partners, WIFAG AG stands for quality, sustainability, and innovation. WIFAG's outstanding reputation is of great importance for the joined business development. The existing brand, continuity of the company philosophy, and customer relations would be preserved in case of a merger.

Last fall, WIFAG AG announced the reduction of 300 jobs and the search for a strategic business partner. With the sale to manroland, the company responds to the increasing consolidation pressure in the industry.

manroland AG is the world's second largest printing systems manufacturer and the world's market leader in web offset. manroland employs almost 8,000 people and has annual sales of some Euro 1,7 billion with an export share of app. 80% (2008). Webfed and sheetfed presses provide solutions for publishing, commercial and packaging printing.

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Photos can be downloaded from www.manroland.com in the category **Press**.

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