

Berlin, den 22. Januar 2009

## **P r e s s   R e l e a s e**

### **ddp media holding AG in (not quite) new hands**

- The entrepreneurs, Löw and Vorderwülbecke, join press agency on a long-term basis
- Annual results 2008 with risen revenues
- WAZ newspapers sign group contract with ddp

ddp media holding AG, with its subsidiaries Deutscher Depeschendienst GmbH (Berlin), dfd Deutscher Fotodienst GmbH (Hamburg) and colourpress.com A/S (Vejle, Denmark), has been taken over by the Munich entrepreneurs, Peter Löw and Martin Vorderwülbecke. The new owners are old acquaintances of ddp: Both were members of the executive board of the previous shareholder, ArquesIndustries AG (Starnberg), until 2007 / 2008 respectively. Löw and Vorderwülbecke remained on friendly terms with the company after leaving Arques. They will focus on continuity at ddp: „The successful course we started at the time of the takeover of the press agency in 2004 will continue with the seasoned management and the excellent staff“, Löw said.

After the takeover by Arques in 2004, the press agency ddp was steered toward profitability by managing director, Matthias Schulze, and editor-in-chief, Joachim Widmann, with a journalistic quality initiative and a realignment regarding the content priorities and production requirements of their media customers. Within the framework of ddp media holding AG the development of the image agency division was substantially expanded together with dfd Deutscher Fotodienst GmbH and colourpress.com.

At a press conference on Monday in Berlin the new owners presented their plans for the development of ddp:

They wish to expand the press agency by developing the departments and rounding off the profile. "We have a few ideas of what we would like to do", Vorderwülbecke said. However, details are to be discussed internally first. They will also keep a lookout for takeover opportunities.

Löw said that the press agency should be given the opportunity to develop further without economic pressure. "We want to retain the company on a long-term basis", he said and mentioned 30 years in this regard. "We are not interested in profit maximisation. In the coming five years 100 percent of the funds generated are to remain within the company", he added.

### **Annual results 2008: a healthy balance and increased revenues**

ddp managed to increase its revenues and expand its coverage in 2008 for the fourth year running. With total revenues of EUR 12.0 million, operational results (EBITDA) improved from EUR 1.8 million to EUR 2.5 million. The company is free of debt and has a healthy balance sheet structure. The number of employees as at December 2008 was slightly above that of the previous year.

Matthias Schulze, executive board member of ddp media holding AG and ddp managing director: „The increased coverage regarding the daily newspapers and the pleasing sales development prove the importance ddp enjoys as a modern business partner press agency alongside the newspapers. We consider ourselves well set up for the current difficult market situation based on efficient structures, good annual results, a solid capital structure and highly motivated and competent employees.“

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**2009: New group contract with WAZ newspapers**

2009 also has started well for ddp to which the new contract with the WAZ Group contributed. Since the beginning of January the WAZ Group bases the production of its regional newspapers in North Rhine-Westphalia and Thuringia (total circulation + 1.2 million copies) on an agency portfolio without dpa – in the same way as the „Freie Presse“ in Chemnitz, the „Rheinpfalz“ in Ludwigshafen and the „Rheinische Post“ in Dusseldorf have done for several years already. As a reliable business partner of editorships, with its setting of editorial priorities, journalistically alert and reader-friendly items, and as many exclusive reports as possible, the ddp services reach approximately 80 per cent of the daily newspapers in Germany.

**ddp media holding AG**

ddp Deutscher Depeschendienst GmbH ([www.ddp.de](http://www.ddp.de)) Berlin, dfd Deutscher Fotodienst GmbH Hamburg ([www.dfd-images.com](http://www.dfd-images.com)) and colourpress.com A/S ([www.colourpress.com](http://www.colourpress.com)) in Vejle, Denmark, belong to ddp media holding AG.

**dfd** Deutscher Fotodienst is the only agency in Germany to offer a service uniting specialized labels such as ddp News, a-life, dfd-stars, defd-movies and, last but not least, colourpress. The press agency, ddp Deutscher Depeschendienst, supplies current and relevant written and photographic news items countrywide from politics, economics, miscellaneous, sport and culture.

**colourpress.com** has been established in the Scandinavian market since 2002 as a supplier of celebrity photos.

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