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Press Release

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HAWKINS WATTS ACQUIRES FOOD ASSETS OF ROBERT IMPORTERS LTD

Hawkins Watts Ltd announced today the acquisition of the food ingredient division of Robert Importers Ltd, effective from the 1st December 2007.

Robert Importers is an Auckland based importer of food and cosmetic ingredients, and was formed from R.T.Carr Ltd, established in 1949. Robert Importers is the New Zealand agent for Amedeo Giovanni (Italy), Colloides Naturels Inc (France) and Lionel Hitchen Essential Oils Ltd (UK).

Amedeo Giovanni is a speciality manufacturer of citrus oils, based in the South of Italy.

CNI is the world's largest manufacturer and supplier of Gum Acacia, backed up by extensive applications support. (www.cniworld.com)

Lionel Hitchen Essential Oils is Europe's largest manufacturer of oleoresins and spice extracts. (www.lheo.co.uk)

All three companies are family owned businesses and specialists in their chosen market segment.

"Individually they are great companies with considerable experience and knowledge" said Paul Harrison, Executive Director of Hawkins Watts Ltd. "In combination they complement our ingredient range perfectly. The HWL team looks forward to working together with these companies and drawing on their expertise."

The purchase involves only the food-related assets of Robert Importers. Graeme Nealie, currently employed by Robert Importers, will also transfer to HWL from the 1st December. The non- food aspects of Robert Importers will remain with the company and will be handled by Rod Carr.

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