

Press release

RUSNANO Invests DKK 185 million (EUR 25 m) in Via Venture Partners portfolio company

RUSNANO, 100% owned by The Government of the Russian Federation, has invested DKK 185 million in Beneq, a Via Venture Partners portfolio company and Finnish pioneer and world-leader in industrial production and laboratory equipment for nano-scale thin films and functional coatings. Beneq is probably the most acknowledged hyper growth company in the nano industry in the world today. The investment is a combination of capital injection and share purchase.

Via Venture Partners invested in Finnish Beneq in 2007 when the turnover was approximately DKK 9 million. Via Venture Partners has continuously actively supported the company with commercial knowhow, project work, as member of the board of directors and follow-up investments. Beneq is now the undisputed global leader in industrial production and laboratory equipment for nano-scale thin films and functional coatings, and the revenue in 2012 is expected to exceed DKK 200 million. A sizeable part of the investment will be a capital increase supporting Beneq's further worldwide hyper growth.

Sergey Polikarpov, Managing Director at RUSNANO comments: "Beneq is a welcome member in our nanotechnology portfolio. We acknowledge the technical excellence of the company, and the literally untapped economical potential that lies before its thin film coating offering. With a firm belief in the technical capabilities of Beneq and the global surge for thin film production capacity, we want to be a part of the growth that lies ahead".

Sampo Ahonen, CEO of Beneq, sees paradigm shift possibilities as an effect of the investment: "This investment in Beneq secures continued extraordinary fast expansion of the company's core business activities serving its customers worldwide. Simultaneous it opens the possibility to pursue new opportunities in new growth markets, including giving excellent knowhow about the important Russian market".

After the investment Beneq will have two large investors, RUSNANO and Via Venture Partners, and a number of smaller investors, i.e. all the smaller investors from the foundation and the early seed funding rounds of the company. Via Venture Partners will as all other shareholders receive a partial part of the investment due to the sale of some part of VIA shares to RUSNANO. Via Venture Partners owns approximately 30 % of the company post the RUSNANO investment.

Peter Thorlund Haahr, Partner at Via Venture Partners and a Beneq board member, is very positive of the outlook for the company: "RUSNANO is an extremely professional partner and a perfect large co-shareholder to complement Via Venture Partners' large shareholding now Beneq faces the important even higher growth ambitions of the board and shareholders in the coming years. Of the many possible investors wanting to invest in Beneq RUSNANO stood out as an ideal match, not only from the point of view of Via Venture Partners but from the point of view of all the shareholders including management."

ABOUT:

RUSNANO was founded in March 2011 as an open joint stock company through reorganization of state corporation Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies. RUSNANO's mission is to develop the Russian nanotechnology industry through co-investment in nanotechnology projects with substantial economic potential or social benefit. The Government of the Russian Federation owns 100 percent of the shares in RUSNANO. Anatoly Chubais is CEO and chairman of the Executive Board of RUSNANO.

Work to establish nanotechnology infrastructure and training for nanotechnology specialists, formerly conducted by the Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies, has been entrusted to the Fund for Infrastructure and Educational Programs, a non-commercial fund also established through reorganization of the Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies. For more information, please visit the company's website at www.rusnano.com.

Beneq, founded in Finland in 2005, is a supplier of coating equipment and technology for global markets. Beneq develops applications and equipment for cleantech and renewable energy fields, especially in glass, solar and emerging thin film markets. Coating applications include optics, barriers and passivation layers, as well as energy generation and conservation. Beneq also offers complete coating services. The coating applications of Beneq are based on two enabling nanotechnology platforms: Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) and aerosol coating (nHALO® and nAERO®).

Beneq has sales offices in Germany, China, and the United States. Its 36 representative sales offices worldwide bring the company's products to businesses across the globe. Over the past three years, Beneq has exhibited an annual growth of more than 60 percent. In 2011 Beneq posted sales exceeding 18 million euros. www.beneq.com .

Via Venture Partners is among the largest investors in the Nordic region dedicated to IT and technology company investments. Via Venture Partners Fund I K/S was founded in early 2006. The investments are managed through the management company Via Venture Partners A/S. Completing its first investment in June 2006, Via Venture Partners has to date invested in more than 15 different IT, communications and technology businesses in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark. The fund has DKK 1 billion at its disposal for investment purposes.

Recently Via Venture Partners A/S raised Via Venture Partners Fund II K/S adding new extra DKK 1 billion for investments. Via Venture Partners A/S with offices in Copenhagen and Stockholm is a true multistage investor investing in companies of all sizes inside the IT and technology investment focus, and has today DKK 2 billion under management.

ATP, the Danish Supplementary Pension System with close to DKK 600 billion under management, is the only investor besides the management team in Via Venture Partners Funds I & II.