

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KION North America Corporation under new leadership**

SUMMERVILLE, SC: The KION Group is under new management in the key growth market of North America. Effective January 16, the current Chief Sales Officer, Vincent Halma, takes over as President and CEO of KION North America Corporation. He succeeds Brian Butler, who is leaving the KION Group at his own request in order to pursue new opportunities outside the company.

"The KION Group is well placed to gain additional market share in North America. I would like to thank Brian Butler for his many years of successful work, which has been a considerable factor in helping us to lay these foundations in North America. In addition, Brian played a key role in the successful restructuring of the Linde Heavy Truck Division in Wales," said the Chief Executive Officer of the KION Group, Gordon Riske. "Establishing a much stronger presence for ourselves in the North American market is one of the key elements of our Strategy 2020. Vincent Halma can count on an excellent team as we strive to achieve our objective of evolving from a niche provider into a major market player."

One of the world's two largest suppliers of forklift trucks, warehouse technology and associated services, the KION Group recently reached a first significant milestone in North America when Linde North America Corporation was renamed KION North America Corporation officially at the beginning of this year. The KION Group operates a production plant in Summerville, South Carolina, with an annual capacity of more than 10,000 trucks, and has a nationwide sales and service network with around 100 dealers.

Before moving to Summerville, Vincent Halma held the roles of Managing Director in the Netherlands and Vice President of Sales for Western Europe at STILL GmbH. Originally from the Netherlands, he also spent more than ten years in the United States working for a provider of cargo solutions. Brian Butler became President of Linde North America Corporation in 2005.

Under the umbrella of KION North America, the brand companies Linde and STILL are to serve the requirements of the US, Canadian and Mexican markets with a comprehensive, customized and complementary product portfolio. The company's medium-term objectives include establishing a fleet management and finance system and possibly introducing an additional brand.

**Disclaimer**

This release contains forward-looking statements that are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Future results could differ materially from those described in these forward-looking statements due to certain factors, e.g. changes in business, economic and competitive conditions, regulatory reforms, results of technical studies, foreign exchange rate fluctuations, and the availability of financing. We do not undertake any responsibility to update the forward-looking statements in this release.