

## **The metal industry companies K. Hartwall and Elpi combine their operations**

K. Hartwall Oy Ab, which is a major manufacturer of logistic equipment for the Dairy, Beverage and Retail industries, will join forces with another metal industry company, Elpi-Roll Containers Oy. The business combination will involve the transfer of the Elpi-Roll Container business to K. Hartwall's ownership. Risto Piironen, chairman of Elpi-Roll Containers' Board of Directors, will become a member of K. Hartwall's Board of Directors.

"By combining our business operations, we want to ensure our future competitiveness and cost-effectiveness in Europe, our main market," says John Hartwall, President of K.Hartwall. "By combining our resources we bring together years of experience and can in the future serve our customers in Finland, the Nordic countries and other parts of Europe more efficiently than ever before by offering joint and innovative logistics solutions."

It has been decided to move the production operations of Elpi Oy, which are located in Järvenpää, to K. Hartwall in Sipoo in the near future. The company has approximately 100 employees. Co-determination negotiations with the staff will commence immediately. K.Hartwall will strive to offer a job to as many Elpi employees as possible at K. Hartwall's locations or those of its subsidiaries.

K. Hartwall is a family-owned company that was founded in 1932 and operates in the metal industry. K. Hartwall and its affiliates will generate turnover in 2003 of over 36 million euros and the companies employ about 310 people. K. Hartwall manufactures distribution and dairy roll containers as well as beverage racks and logistics systems primarily for the brewing and dairy industries as well as the retail trade. 80% of its production is exported. K. Hartwall's affiliates are Factorix, a manufacturer of metal furniture, and Lankapaja Oy, which manufactures point-of-sale racks and components for furniture, store furnishing and refrigeration equipment factories. The K. Hartwall Group is the market leader in the Nordic countries and ranks among the three largest manufacturers in its field in Europe. The company's facility is located in Sipoo, close to Helsinki.

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