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PRESS RELEASE:

## New ownership and director are to bring Bica into Europe

Bica ApS, which is among the country's leaders in the sale of waste sorting furniture for public and private companies, has new ownership. Founder of the company Carsten Jansen has chosen to retire and has sold his majority share to the investment company Brygge Partners II, Esbjerg, as well as business people from central and western Jutland.

- One of the main reasons for my decision is that I turn 70 this spring, and another is that I am overwhelmed by the many important tasks that Bica is in the middle of: the green transition, sustainability and increased exports to a number of countries. There is a need for fresh forces to drive the company's continued development and growth in the coming years, says Carsten Jansen.

He has so far owned Bica together with Peter Brahe, who took over as sales director and co-owner back in 2022. Brygge Partners II will become the new majority shareholder, while the other ownership shares are divided between Peter Brahe, Torben Villadsen and Poul Sand.

### Leading in functionality and design

In connection with the change of ownership, Peter Brahe, aged 56, takes over as managing director, and he has great faith in Bica's potential in both the home market and a number of local markets, the Nordics, Germany, Benelux and more.

- We are among the market leaders in a very fragmented market, and in terms of function and design content in the products we have a leading position. In the Danish market, we are supported by legislation that, since January 2023, household-type waste has had to be sorted in both public and private companies. On the European market, it is an EU directive that drives development, says Peter Brahe.

Bica ApS is a Mid-Jutland company with headquarters in Herning, which currently employs nine employees. The production of the stylish indoor and outdoor waste sorting furniture is located with European partners.

### A perfect investment case

Bica ApS, which until November 2023 was named Carbi, delivers on all the parameters Brygge Partners assesses potential investment opportunities on. Managing director, CEO Kent Ernst Hansen is very satisfied with the process leading up to the change of ownership, which will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

- Bica completely represents what we want with our investments. There is good chemistry with skilled management, a clear business foundation, fine products and great growth potential. Together with a circle of co-investors, we are strengthening the board and with the added skills will help to increase the organization with a view to further growth in export markets in particular, says Kent Ernst Hansen.

### **Chairman with growth experience**

Helle Reinevald has been appointed as chairman of the board, who three years ago sold the honey producer Jakobsens A/S to the food group Good Food Group and with effect from 15 January 2024 is employed as a partner in Brygge Partners.

- With the experience and background from my own growth journey and together with the rest of the board, I want to be a sparring partner for Peter Brahe in the management tasks he now faces. My own focus will be the organizational aspect, that we get the right skills and employees to solve the tasks. In a time of crisis after several years of strong expansion, I will also look at the structure with processes, IT and finances to secure the framework for new growth, says Helle Reinevald.

Helle also sits on the board of Danspin A/S, KD Emballage A/S and was previously a member of the main board of Dansk Industri.

### **Time for more family time**

Carbi/Bica founder Carsten Jansen originally trained as a mechanic and worked for many years in the textile industry before realizing his dream of becoming self-employed in 2008. He will remain with the company until 30<sup>th</sup> of June 30 2024.

- I am completely settled that the time has now come to pass on the baton. When I founded Carbi, it was with 100 percent support from my wife, Birthe. I have spent many hours in the company, and now I want to prioritize the family with Birthe, our three sons, daughters-in-law and four grandchildren, says Carsten Jansen.

### **Further information:**

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### **About Brygge Partners**

Brygge Partners, with headquarters in Esbjerg, consists of prominent Jutland business people with experience from a number of industries, who invest in unlisted companies with potential. The goal is a long-term collaboration. The investment in Bica ApS brings the portfolio to five companies in Brygge Partners II A/S, which was founded in February 2021.