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Two of the largest European Intellectual Property Law firms, Zacco and Albihns, merge

Zacco and Albihns announced today that they have signed an agreement signifying that two of the leading IP firms in Europe will be one as of July 1st, 2009. This is a further step in the Zacco Group expansion and implies that Zacco's mother company in Denmark formally buys Albihns through a share contribution agreement with Albihns' shareholders.

The merged company will have approximately 600 employees in six countries; Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands and North America. The total number of attorneys will amount to approximately 210 of which more than 90 are European Patent Attorneys, European Trademark Attorneys and/or European Design Attorneys.

The name of the group will be the Zacco Group but the Swedish and German offices will be named Albihns.Zacco. In the other countries, the name will remain the same as today, viz. Zacco in Denmark, Norway, and North America; and Shieldmark.Zacco in the Netherlands.

Top rankings

The two companies now merging – Albihns and Zacco - have independently received top rankings in Managing Intellectual Property's annual ranking of professional service firms within patents and trademark/copyright in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands. The rankings are the result of an international grading reflecting the opinions of experts in the fields of patent and trademark/copyright.

The merger means that the company will have a strong foundation not only in Scandinavia, but in one of the important Intellectual Property centres in Europe, Munich where the European Patent Office is located.

“Our goal is to always deliver high quality IP services in order to meet the growing demands and expectations of our clients and remain an attractive employer in an increasingly competitive international market. We have to attract and be able to keep highly competent employees. We will keep on working with focus on our clients' businesses, being their strategic partner within Intellectual Property. We will continue building an international, collaborative culture based on competence and passion”, says CEO Hans-Bertil Håkansson.

Michael Gaarmann, future Deputy CEO in Zacco Group commenting on the merger, says.

“This merger combines the strengths of two well-known companies within the IP Law area, with the same values aiming at quality and competence for the benefit of our clients. The now broader and stronger basis in Scandinavia and Europe, combined with our wide international network gives us a unique position in the international market for qualified IP services.”

Hans-Bertil Håkansson will continue as CEO for the Zacco Group and Michael Gaarmann, now CEO of the Albihns, will become Deputy CEO with responsibility for Business Development including International Sales, Munich office and Zacco Legal.

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Zacco

Zacco is a leading European intellectual property consultancy. Zacco assists clients with technical, legal and strategic advice from the original idea to marketing of the finished product or service, including handling of conflicts and contracts. In addition to protecting intellectual property rights, Zacco also offers strategic advice for the purpose of securing an increased competitive edge for its clients and a better exploitation of their intellectual property rights. Zacco has offices in Scandinavia, Benelux and the US. Visit www.zacco.com for further information.

Albihns

Albihns is one of Europe's leading Intellectual Property consulting firms with offices in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmoe, Copenhagen and Munich. We help our clients to strengthen their competetiveness in the market through our knowledge of patents, trademarks, designs and other intellectual property rights. Visit www.albihns.com for further information