

FILTROX Group
CH-9001 St.Gallen / Switzerland



Columbia FILTER Co. de México S.A. de C.V.
Tlalnepantla, Mexico City / Mexico

PRESS RELEASE

St. Gallen, Switzerland / Mexico City, Mexico
May 7, 2012

FILTROX and COLUMBIA enter into Strategic Alliance

Effective May 1, 2012, the FILTROX Group and COLUMBIA FILTER COMPANY de Mexico S.A. de C.V. entered into a strategic alliance. FILTROX Microfiltraciones S.A. de C.V., an existing wholly owned subsidiary of the FILTROX Group, purchased a substantial ownership interest in COLUMBIA FILTER COMPANY for an undisclosed price.

COLUMBIA will become the FILTROX Group's North American manufacturing center. FILTROX and COLUMBIA have agreed to enter into a program to exchange technology and knowledge. At the same time, both partners will cooperate to develop new sales channels for their products and services in North and South American markets.

Cristian Rusch, Chief Executive Officer for the FILTROX Group states: Given COLUMBIA'S proven capability of manufacturing high-quality filtration systems, and its excellent geographic location, this move will substantially strengthen the FILTROX Group's position in the Americas. Rafael Velazquez Avila, Columbia's Director General, adds: The alliance will allow COLUMBIA to consolidate its leading position in Mexico, and accelerate its growth in export markets both North and South of the Mexican Border.

In case of questions please contact:

Dr. Cristian Rusch, CEO FILTROX Group
+41 (71) 272 91 11, c.rusch@filtrox.ch

Rafael Velazquez Avila, General Director Columbia Filter Co. de México SA de CV
+52 (555) 361 7314, ravelazquez@columbiafilter.com.mx

The **FILTROX Group** (www.filtrox.ch) is an international Group of Filtration Companies headquartered in St. Gallen Switzerland. It was founded in 1938 and has grown to a total of 280 employees worldwide with subsidiaries in Switzerland, Germany, France, England, the Czech Republic, Spain, the United States, Mexico and China. The FILTROX Group is a technology leader in microfiltration systems for highly-sensitive liquids. Its primary activities are in the beverage, food, pharmaceutical and chemical industries. The company develops and manufactures filtration equipment and filter media. The FILTROX Group is a family-owned company.

COLUMBIA FILTER CO. de MEXICO SA de CV (www.columbiafilter.com) was founded in 1970, and is headquartered in Tlalnepantla in the Mexico City Metropolitan area. COLUMBIA manufactures filtration equipment and filter media for the beverage, food, pharmaceutical and chemical industry. It holds a leading position in the Mexican Market and exports to the U.S. and Latin American markets. The company currently has 62 employees and is owned and operated by the Velazquez and Plasencia families.