

## **Wellington Partners invests in leading mobile entertainment provider**

*Munich, March 11, 2002.* Springtoys of Finland, a Wellington Partners holding, and Finnish Codeonline Oy are merging to become the world's leading player in the fast-growing market for mobile entertainment applications. Moreover, the new company, which will be doing business as Codeonline, will be receiving a total of € 2.8 million from its investors for further expansion. In addition to Wellington Partners, Sonera and Eqvitec of Finland, as well as U.S.-based Shamrock, will also be participating in this round of funding. The company's shareholders additionally include the world's second largest supplier of mobile phones, Motorola.

Wellington Partner Jörg Überla played a key role in bringing about the merger: "The new company is well positioned in one of the most promising segments of the mobile market," he explains: "Together, Springtoys and Codeonline have the critical mass that's needed for broadening their position of market leadership."

Since its formation in the year 2000, Springtoys has been developing and marketing innovative, platform-independent mobile entertainment content and services. Thus, the platforms on which Springtoys run include microbrowsers like WAP and i-Mode, as SMS games, as well as SymbianOS and PalmOS. The mobile entertainment standards that Springtoys has set include the development of a virtual snowboarding race for the Nokia Communicator.

Since its establishment in 1998, Codeonline has been focusing on licensing business with mobile providers. Among other things, the company has licensed mobile versions of "Trivial Pursuit" and "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" to numerous international mobile operators. In Germany, D1 customers have been able to play "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" since the beginning of February 2002. A further marketing plus point: Motorola markets Codeonline games exclusively to mobile network operators worldwide.

Today, the new company reaches over 200 million users in more than 20 countries. A total of over 50 million billable transactions were already handled in 2001. Codeonline anticipates unabated strong growth for the current year. Wellington Partner Überla explains the reason for the success of mobile applications in Europe, North America and Japan: "The urge to play games is simply universal."

## **About Wellington Partners**

Wellington Partners invests venture capital in young, creative companies operating in the fields of information and communication technology (ICT), as well as in the life sciences sector. Wellington Partners primarily invests in European companies. Headquartered in Munich, Wellington Partners manages venture capital funds totaling € 260 million, of which more than € 100 million is available for new investments or for follow-on financing for existing investments. In recent years, Wellington Partners has already succeeded in accompanying more than ten young enterprises on their way to a successful initial public offering or exit, including such companies as ACG or Actelion, a biotechnology company.

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