

## **Sophos acquires Astaro – another successful exit for Wellington**

London/Munich (May, 6, 2011). Venture capital firm Wellington Partners has sold its stake in Astaro, one of the largest dedicated unified threat management (UTM) providers. Global security leader Sophos Limited (“Sophos”) has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the entire company. Astaro’s comprehensive portfolio of network security solutions will fit very well with Sophos’ existing endpoint, mobile, email and web threat as well as data protection capabilities. All parties have agreed not to disclose any details about the agreement.

Wellington Partners originally invested in Astaro in 2003. Since then, Astaro has developed to become a market leading security vendor. Today, Astaro has more than 220 employees in nine countries spanning three continents.

Astaro CEO Jan Hichert says: “Wellington Partners has played a crucial role in our development. They have always been extremely supportive and loyal, and have provided great coaching to me and my team.”

Wellington Partner Frank Boehnke adds: “Our staying power is paying off again and will provide our investors with another attractive return. We know that it takes time to build globally successful companies like Astaro. Jan and his team have done an outstanding job in positioning and scaling Astaro to where it is today.”

For the technology team of Wellington Partners, it is the third successful exit in the last eight months. During the same period, Wellington Partners has invested € 15 millions in four new start-ups or growth companies.

### **About Wellington Partners**

Wellington Partners is one of the most successful pan-European venture capital firms. With some € 800 million under management and offices in London, Munich, Palo Alto and Zurich, the firm invests into companies throughout Europe that have the potential to become global leaders, in the areas of Digital Media, Cleantech, Electronics, Software and Life Sciences.

Since 1998, Wellington Partners has invested in more than 100 companies in Europe and Israel, including now publicly traded Actelion and XING and successful privately held companies like Alando (acquired by eBay), Ciao (acquired by Microsoft) and ImmobilienScout24 (acquired by Deutsche Telekom). For more information please visit [www.wellington-partners.com](http://www.wellington-partners.com).

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