

## **Ad-hoc-release according to § 15 WpHG**

### **Südzucker AG and Austrian shareholders increase participation in AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG**

Mannheim, 25 February 2014

Südzucker AG Mannheim/Ochsenfurt, Mannheim, and Zucker-Beteiligungsgesellschaft m.b.H. (Raiffeisen-Holding Niederösterreich-Wien and others) have increased the participation in AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG, Vienna, via the joint holding Z&S Zucker und Stärke Holding AG. In total, about 15.6 % shares of AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG have been purchased from M&G Funds. Confidentiality about the purchase price has been agreed amongst the parties.

Thereby 10.6 % have been indirectly and equally purchased by Südzucker AG and the Austrian shareholders via the joint holding Z&S Zucker und Stärke Holding AG, Vienna, increasing the current position in AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG from about 75.5 % to about 86.1 %.

Additionally, Südzucker AG has directly purchased about 5 %. Subsequently, this position is to be placed on the market in order to increase the free float of AGRANA Beteiligungs-AG, listed at the stock market in Vienna. The target is to increase liquidity in AGRANA shares and respective attractiveness for investors.

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Supervisory board chairman: Dr. Hans-Jörg Gebhard · Executive board: Dr. Wolfgang Heer (CEO), Dr. Lutz Guderjahn, Dr. Thomas Kirchberg, Thomas Kölbl, Johann Marihart

Corporate headquarters: Mannheim – Registration court: Magistrates Court, Mannheim, HRB 0042

## **The Südzucker Group**

Südzucker, with its sugar, special products, CropEnergies and fruit segments, is one of the leading companies in the food industry. In the traditional sugar business, the group is the world market leader, with 29 sugar factories and three refineries, extending from France in the west via Belgium, Germany and Austria, through to Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bosnia and Moldova in the east. The special products segment, consisting of the functional food (BENE0), chilled/frozen products (Freiberger), portion packs (PortionPack Europe) and starch businesses, is an important growth driver. The CropEnergies segment covers the bioethanol activities in Germany, Belgium, France and the UK. In the fruit segment, the group operates internationally, is the world market leader for fruit preparations and is a leading supplier of fruit juice concentrates in Europe.

In 2012/13, the group employed 17,940 persons and generated revenues of about EUR 7.9 billion.