



Press Contact:
Dagmar Blaha
Press Spokesperson
DQS GmbH
Tel. +49 69 95427 211
E-Mail: dagmar.blaha@dqs.de

DQS and Underwriters Laboratories join forces to create a leading global certification body for management systems

Frankfurt, March 31, 2008 – DQS GmbH Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Zertifizierung von Managementsystemen, Frankfurt, Germany, announced that Management Systems Solutions (MSS), the management systems registration division of Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Northbrook, IL, USA is merging into DQS. The combined business will constitute one of the world's five leading companies for the certification of management systems with a strong presence in the important core markets of Europe, North and South America and Asia.

The MSS division of UL, which enjoys an especially strong market position in the USA and Asia is merging into DQS. In return, UL will receive a 27.8 percent stake in DQS GmbH. Ganesh Rao, previously General Manager at UL MSS, will head the operation of the combined business in the USA. Rao, Stefan Heinloth and Michael Drechsel will jointly manage DQS GmbH.

UL and the DQS founding members DIN and DGQ will each hold equal stakes of 27.8% in DQS GmbH. The remaining shares will continue to be held by the industry associations VDMA, ZVEI, VCI, HDB and Spectaris.

“DQS is committed to generating sustainable success for its customers worldwide through value-added certification of their management systems and business processes,” says DQS General Manager, Stefan Heinloth, in explaining the significance of the merger. “Today, companies of all sizes in all sectors operate in dynamic and increasingly international markets. They are constantly confronted with new entrepreneurial challenges. Both customers and shareholders are becoming increasingly more demanding. Well-developed and certified management systems provide a foundation for reliable quality and lean production processes. They build and strengthen trust and contribute significantly to a company's success.”

Ganesh Rao points to the geographic strengths that will ensue from the global alliance. “Our products and services in Europe, North and South America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia complement one another. Our customers will be the primary beneficiaries. We will be in a better position to satisfy the growing demand for management assessments globally.”



About Underwriters Laboratories:

In addition to the MSS division, Underwriters Laboratories is an independent, not-for-profit product safety certification organization that has been writing Standards for Safety, testing products and involved in conformity assessment for well over a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components, materials and systems annually with 21 billion UL Marks appearing on 71,000 manufacturers' products in the global marketplace each year. UL has also issued nearly 9,000 registrations to management system standards and has performed over 12,000 assessments in 62 countries. UL's worldwide family of companies and network of service providers includes 62 laboratory, testing and certification facilities serving customers with business operations on six continents.

Visit: www.UL.com/newsroom

About DQS:

DQS GmbH, Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Zertifizierung von Managementsystemen, was founded in 1985 as the first certifier of management systems by the standards organizations Deutsches Institut für Normung e.V. (DIN) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Qualität e.V. (DGQ). With offices in 38 countries, DQS today is one of the most internationally renowned companies in the field of certification. DQS is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main and has facilities in Berlin and Stuttgart. The range of services comprises evaluations in accordance with more than 70 recognized standards and industry-specific specifications. DQS also evaluates internal company guidelines. The company draws on the expertise of over 1,500 auditors worldwide.

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