

WILLIAM RANSOM & SON PLC SELLS ITS TOILETRIES & COSMETICS AND AGRICULTURAL EXTRACTS BUSINESSES

Divestment allows focus on higher growth botanicals for the pharmaceuticals and food and drinks industries

William Ransom & Son plc is pleased to announce the sale of its agricultural and toiletries and cosmetics extracts businesses. The divestment is part of the streamlining of Ransom's botanical extracts business associated with its site move. It will allow Ransom to focus its expertise at its new botanicals manufacturing site on a higher growth range of plant extracts for the pharmaceuticals and food and drinks industries.

The buyer is Inovia International, a division of Stan Chem International Limited, who are paying £235,000 for the businesses and certain plant and machinery.

Timothy Dye said, "The sale of these smaller product ranges represents an important step in the development of a botanical extraction business which is focused and growing and which can play a key role in helping us achieve our objective of becoming the UK's leading natural product based consumer healthcare business."

For further information, please contact:

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William Ransom is one of the UK's oldest independent pharmaceutical companies, founded in 1846. The company has a distinctive combination of pharmaceutical and botanical manufacturing and formulation expertise. Ransom is one of the UK's leading suppliers of botanical extracts and is an acknowledged leader in the manufacture and formulation of healthcare products in which botanicals are used. The company has a reputation as a high quality manufacturer of ethical and over-the-counter liquid and cream pharmaceuticals. "

Since 2001, Ransom has implemented a number of corporate changes including moving to AIM; sale of its historic Hitchin town centre site for £8.6m; rationalisation of traditional business to restore profitability and the implementation and integration of five acquisitions, in line with the company's redefined mission. The most recent acquisition (in April) was the acquisition of Health Perception UK Ltd for £7.825m from David Wilkie MBE.