

## Geberit expands in the USA

**Jona, 9 July 2002 – Effective 9 July 2002, the Geberit Group has acquired 100% of the shares of the Chicago Faucet Company, Des Plaines, Illinois. Chicago Faucets is a highly recognized brand in the USA, producing a wide range of commercial faucets and fittings. In the fiscal year 2001 Chicago Faucets generated sales of USD 70.0 million with approx. 400 employees. With this acquisition the Geberit Group significantly increases its presence and commitment in the USA and continues its successful expansion and internationalisation strategy.**

The Chicago Faucet Company is a traditional family owned company, which celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 2001. The company has a strong sales organisation and a wide distribution network operating throughout the USA. Its products are produced in four plants in the US. The Chicago Faucet products are complementary to Geberit's product range and can be found mainly in schools, laboratories, hospitals, office buildings, food services, airports and sports facilities.

The purchase price for the shares amounts to USD 33.3 million. Payment will be remitted mainly in Geberit shares.

With this acquisition, Geberit becomes one of the leading suppliers of commercial sanitary products in the USA. The Geberit Group will combine its existing product line with Chicago Faucet's line to form a comprehensive range of offerings to the commercial plumbing market. The integration of the two company's sales and distribution networks is seen as a significant synergy.

As European market leader, the Geberit Group is a global provider in the area of sanitary technology and employs a staff of approximately 4,600 worldwide.