

# CIPPIO PARTNERS

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Cipio Partners acquires West STEAG Partners from WestLB AG and STEAG Electronic Systems AG**

Munich/London/San Jose, October 5, 2005 – With immediate effect, investment management firm Cipio Partners has acquired the venture capital portfolio of West STEAG Partners, a fund sponsored by WestLB AG, a leading financial institution, and STEAG Electronic Systems AG, meanwhile merged with SES Beteiligungs-GmbH. The portfolio, invested by West STEAG Partners since 2001, currently comprises seven direct investments, including a number of leading semiconductor capital equipment and communications technology companies in North America and Israel. Cipio Partners has led the transaction in cooperation with major international fund-of-funds managers.

The purchase of West STEAG Partners represents a further acquisition by Cipio Partners, which has built a significant presence across Technology, Media and Telecommunications as well as select areas of life sciences market, among others through its early 2005 acquisition of the investment arm of Infineon Technologies, a global semiconductor manufacturer.

Tom S. Anthofer, Managing Partner of Cipio Partners stated: “West STEAG is a high-quality set of venture assets with a clearly defined investment focus. We are delighted to continue the competent work by the West STEAG general partners and further assist the investees in executing their growth strategies.” Maximilian Schroeck, Managing Partner, added: “This transaction coincides with the opening of our West Coast investment operation. I look forward to supporting the West STEAG portfolio firms in building and extending their franchises. Given our team’s domain expertise, I am certain we can bring a very relevant proposition to the investees.”

West STEAG Partners’ portfolio includes a number of investments in leading semiconductor, software and communications businesses worldwide. Among these are Metara, Inc. (Sunnyvale, CA), a leading vendor of in-line chemical metrology to the semiconductor industry, and BridgeWave Communications, Inc. (Santa Clara, CA), a vendor of ultra-low cost gigabit wireless solutions for enterprise and carrier applications.

#### **About West STEAG Partners**

West STEAG Partners is a venture fund investing in Electronics, Optics, MEMS, IT and Analytics / Diagnostics in Biotechnology. It provides capital and support for young companies in high-tech growth markets primarily in the United States, Europe and Israel. Investments are generally made in various stages of a company’s development but focus on expansion and bridge financing where the partners’ industry and management experience has the greatest impact.

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## **About Cipro Partners**

Cipro Partners is a leading investment management firm in the secondary direct market. Founded in mid-2003, Cipro Partners has become one of the fastest growing firms in the private equity industry. With offices in Munich, London and San Jose (CA), Cipro Partners manages an international portfolio of early and later-stage venture capital and mid-market investments.

## **For further information:**

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