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## Press Release

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### **HFAME Considers Rexel Offer for Hagemeyer Inadequate**

Following the unsolicited offers for Hagemeyer shares by Sonepar on the 9th of October and by Rexel yesterday, Hermes Focus Asset Management Europe ("HFAME") wishes to make it known that it considers the offers inadequate and supports the rejection of these offers by Hagemeyer's management.

HFAME expresses its concern at the concert party nature of the latest offer of Rexel and Sonepar, especially as it believes that the resulting bid of EUR 4.60 is below the stand-alone value of the company based on the targets set by Hagemeyer's management. HFAME agrees with Rexel that the transaction would mark a step change in the industry but believes that the offer does not reflect a meaningful share of the sizable industrial benefits that would result from a merger with Rexel and Sonepar, which could be well in excess of EUR 100 million per year.

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Further information, please contact:

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#### **About Hermes Focus Asset Management Europe ("HFAME")**

HFAME has been a significant shareholder in Hagemeyer since early 2004 and today owns more than 5% of the ordinary shares issued by the company. HFAME is an FSA authorised and regulated fund management company. HFAME is owned by Hermes Pensions Management and is ultimately owned by the BT Pension Scheme. It manages the Hermes European Focus Funds, which invest in Continental European based publicly quoted companies. As at 30 September 2007, HFAME had funds under management of ca. EUR 2.2 billion from 23 pension fund investors, together representing over 7 million pension fund members.