

KADANT

Kadant to Buy its Own Securities

May 6, 2005

ACTON, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 6, 2005--Kadant Inc. (NYSE:KAI) announced today that its board of directors has authorized the repurchase of up to \$15 million of its equity securities in the open market or in negotiated transactions, effective May 18, 2005 (the date its current repurchase authorization will expire), through May 18, 2006. The timing and amount of any repurchases will be at the discretion of company management and will be based on market conditions and other corporate considerations. Through May 5, 2005, under the existing authorization, the company has repurchased 500,100 shares of its common stock for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$10 million.

Kadant Inc. is a leading global supplier of a range of products that improve quality and productivity in pulp and paper production, including stock-preparation equipment, water-management systems, and paper machine accessories. Kadant, based in Acton, Massachusetts, had approximately \$195 million in revenues from continuing operations in 2004 and approximately 1,000 employees worldwide. For more information, please visit www.kadant.com.

The following constitutes a "Safe Harbor" statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including forward-looking statements regarding any plans to repurchase our equity securities. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such statements are set forth under the heading "Risk Factors" in Kadant's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 1, 2005. These include risks and uncertainties relating to our dependence on the pulp and paper industry; international sales and operations; competition; acquisition strategy; our ability to complete the proposed restructuring of our French subsidiary; ability to sell the composite building products business on favorable terms; ability to manufacture and distribute composite building products, and the economic conditions, seasonality in sales, and the long-term performance of such products; availability of raw materials and exposure to commodity price fluctuations related to the manufacture of composite and fiber-based products; protection of patents and proprietary rights; fluctuations in quarterly operating results; and anti-takeover provisions. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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SOURCE: Kadant Inc.