

**BRAKES ANNOUNCES £275 MILLION REFINANCING**  
Majority of Proceeds to fund Shareholder Return of Capital

LONDON, 21st September 2006 – the Brakes Group (“Brakes”), a Clayton, Dubilier & Rice (“CD&R”) portfolio company, announced today a £275 million refinancing. The majority of the proceeds is intended to be used to fund a return of capital to the company’s stockholders. A fund managed by CD&R indirectly owns approximately 67% of Brakes.

Commenting on the refinancing facility, partner of CD&R and Brakes’ Chairman Bruno Deschamps said: “The new facility is a strong endorsement of the management team and the excellent progress that the team has made in transforming Brakes.” Brakes’ CEO Frank McKay said: “Under the stewardship of CD&R we now have in place a regional organisation focused on increasing market performance, customer service, brand leadership and product and service innovation. Brakes has the assets, the financial strength and the leadership to pursue profitable growth.”

Since being acquired by CD&R in August 2002, Brakes has strengthened its position as a leading supplier to caterers in the UK and France by broadening Brakes’ appeal to customers through improved product offerings and the development of its broadline and specialist businesses. These have included the launch of Prime Meats (Brakes specialist meat division), an extended produce offering (through the Pauleys specialist produce business), fish and seafood through M&J Seafood, bakery products and food to go through Country Choice, as well as the introduction of a new range of catering supplies and capital and light equipment.

The refinancing is lead-arranged by JPMorgan, Credit Suisse and Deutsche Bank, with UBS as a co-manager. The refinancing is due to close by the end of October 2006, subject to customary closing conditions.

**About Brakes**

Brakes is a leading supplier of quality food to the catering industry in the UK and France, with a turnover in excess of £1.6billion. Brakes’ vision is to be every caterer’s first choice across Europe. Its strong understanding of the needs of the catering industry, combined with innovation in both products and service, has seen Brakes develop into a leading foodservice solutions provider. Brakes operates a “broadline” distribution model supported by speciality businesses, supplying products across all three temperature ranges—frozen, ambient and chilled—to serve a diverse customer base, including independently-owned pubs, restaurants, hotels, fast food outlets, contract caterer, schools, and hospitals. The Company distributes

more than 15,000 products, including Brake-branded and other manufacturers' products, to approximately 150,000 customer outlets in the UK and France. Brakes' broad customer base and wide product range contribute to the stability and diversity of the Company's revenue and earnings stream. For more information about Brakes, visit [www.brake.co.uk](http://www.brake.co.uk).

#### About Clayton, Dubilier & Rice

Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc. is one of the leading private equity investment firms in the world. Since its founding in 1978, CD&R has managed investments in 38 US and European businesses - mostly subsidiaries or divisions of large multi-business corporations - representing a broad range of industries with an aggregate transaction value in excess of \$40 billion and revenues over \$40 billion. CD&R is based in New York and London. For more information about CD&R, visit [www.cdr-inc.com](http://www.cdr-inc.com)

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