***b-business partners***

# Press Release

## *b-business partners* makes first investment

**Largest investment in European B2B start-up to date.**

**Stockholm, March 29th, 2000 – *b-business partners*,** the recently formed venture capital company, today announced its first investment in Surplex.com, of Düsseldorf, Germany. Surplex.com is Europe's leading B2B Internet exchange for surplus assets and excess inventory.

"We are very excited about this investment coming so soon after our launch," said Börje Ekholm, Chairman, ***b-business partners***. "We see Surplex.com as a terrific example of how the Internet can transform the way businesses operate."

Joining ***b-business partners*** in the €18 million round of financing was **GRP** (Global Retail Partners), a venture capital firm specialized in early electronic commerce investments, and **Viventures**, a French venture capital fund sponsored by the Vivendi Group.

Bruno Schick, CEO of **Surplex.com**, said: "**GRP**, ***b-business partners*** and **Viventures** are ideal partners with whom we will be able to grow our business internationally as well as providing us with the industry expertise in our key markets."

***b-business partners***, (www.b-businesspartners.com) with a capital base of **€1 billion**, was founded by Investor AB, ABB, SEB, AstraZeneca, Atlas Copco, Electrolux, Saab (aerospace), Sandvik, StoraEnso and WM-data. ***b-business partners*** aims to foster new leaders in Europe's fast expanding B2B market and will build broader business relationships between both their partner and portfolio companies. The member companies in ***b-business partners*** gain both from their financial returns on investment as well as from collaboration on new Internet business applications.

Founded in September 1999, **Surplex.com** AG registers 250,000 Website hits each week and currently offers machines and articles worth DM 750 Million. **Surplex.com** (www.surplex.com) currently employs 50 people and has offices in Düsseldorf, Munich, Berlin, London and Warsaw.

**CONTACTS:**


Norbert Kehl
+49-89-2308-9714
n.kehl@a-b.de
Ahrens & Behrent

Dan Fleshler
+1 212-935-0210
dfleshler@strategy-xxi.com
Strategy XXI Group