

November 2015

Lakeview Equity Partners Sells Automatän and LS Research

Lakeview announced the sale of Automatän, Plover, Wis., to a private equity firm; and the sale of LS Research (LSR), Cedarburg, Wis., to Laird PLC, a global technology firm – each sale closed in November 2015.

“Lakeview contributed to the growth of both companies via capital investment and strategic advice,” said W. Kent Velde, president and founder of Lakeview Equity Partners, LLC. “Now, we are confident that new ownership will assist each company in achieving the next level of growth.”

Automatän is an international company that supplies innovative equipment to the packaging and printing industries worldwide. The company’s products include labelling and laminating systems, load handling equipment and pH/viscosity controls.

“Automatän is at the forefront in developing automated solutions for the packaging industry,” said Joe Cesarz, managing director of Lakeview Equity Partners.

LSR is a leading wireless product development company that provides turnkey M2M system solutions with design services, on-site FCC/IC/CE testing and certification, and a broad line of wireless modules and antennas.

“Lakeview enabled LSR to start its wireless products division, which helped make it a leader in the emerging EIoT (Enterprise Internet of Things) market,” said Velde.

Bill Steinike, president of LSR, said the new relationship with Laird PLC will enable continuation of the growth that began when the company was acquired by Lakeview in May 2006.

“Lakeview’s capital and strategic guidance has been very valuable to us,” said Steinike. “Our relationship with Lakeview enabled us to start our growing RF Products division that, combined with our other divisions, has made LSR a leader in the emerging EIoT (Enterprise Internet of Things). Laird will fuel this growth through combined technology, products, services and distribution channels,” said Steinike.

“We’ve enjoyed the relationships with Automatän and LSR, and they have both been very successful investments for Lakeview,” said Cesarz.