PRESS RELEASE

*RSBC Holding a.s.*

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**STEYR ARMS accelerates expansion in the U.S. and Europe. Milan Šlapák takes over, Tim Castagne will focus on business development and acquisition opportunities**

**STEYR ARMS, a globally operating manufacturing company belonging to the Czech investment group RSBC, will now be managed by Milan Šlapák. In his new role, he will focus on streamlining the company's operations and accelerating innovation. The current CEO, Tim Castagne, will shift his focus to business development, strategic expansion of the product portfolio and new acquisition opportunities. This change is crucial to STEYR ARMS' rapid expansion in both the U.S. and European markets.**

*"STEYR ARMS' great products are among the best in the world. Our priority is expansion, and a key part of it is establishing efficient process management within the company. We are simplifying the management structure to support faster decision making, increase management dynamics and accelerate product innovation. Our main goal is to strengthen local teams and develop a product strategy tailored to the specific requirements of the U.S. market,"* says **Milan Šlapák, the new CEO of STEYR ARMS.**

Milan Šlapák is moving from his position as CEO of RSBC Group, owner of STEYR ARMS. RSBC Group sees exceptional opportunities in the defense sector in the coming years. To maximize growth acceleration, it's crucial that Tim Castagne focuses on what's most important for the future success of STEYR ARMS, AREX and other planned acquisitions. Growing the customer portfolio, expanding into new markets and strengthening the position in the US market.

The current head of STEYR ARMS, Tim Castagne, with over thirty years of experience in the defense industry, is one of the leading experts in sales development and opportunity scouting. In his new role as Vice President for Sales and Business Development, he will fully focus on business development, market expansion, strategic management of the product portfolio, and identifying new acquisition opportunities.

"The US civilian market exceeds a value of $5 billion annually and the global market for armed forces of about $2.8 billion. They represent a significant opportunity for STEYR ARMS' cutting-edge products. Another advantage is the use of the synergies and know-how of AREX, which specialises in short firearms and is already part of the RSBC Group's portfolio. This cooperation will enable STEYR ARMS to expand its product portfolio, strengthen its competitiveness on the global market and open up space for new acquisitions. We believe that the implemented changes will increase our chances for long-term growth and opportunities for new acquisition opportunities," says **Tim Castagne, Vice President for Sales and Business Development of STEYR ARMS.**

The defense industry is one of the key areas in the overall strategy of the RSBC investment group. The group's holding covers both STEYR ARMS and the Slovenian manufacturing company AREX. Since August 2024, it has become the second asset of the RSBC Defence qualified investor fund, following the Slovenian company AREX. AREX was acquired by RSBC Group in 2017 and later became the fund's first asset.

*The end of the press release*

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ABOUT STEYR ARMS

Founded in 1864 and headquartered in Steyr, Austria, STEYR ARMS is one of Europe's leading firearm manufacturers. STEYR ARMS has more than 200 employees and a turnover of over EUR 45 million in 2023. STEYR ARMS has a strong position in the field of hunting rifles (STEYR Mannlicher) and firearms for police and military professionals. The iconic Steyr AUG, which is among the most successful products of the company, is a part of the armament of more than two dozen armies. Thanks to its compactness, the Steyr AUG is used by many special police units. The company also has a strong position in the field of precision rifles, pistols, and accessories for both professionals (army, police, special forces) and civilians (hunting, sport). STEYR ARMS also has an office in Bessemer, Alabama (USA). For more information, visit [www.steyr-arms.com](http://www.steyr-arms.com)

ABOUT RSBC

RSBC Holding a.s. is a private investment group founded by Robert Schönfeld in 1998 in order to manage a portfolio of restituted family assets. RSBC is an investment group, which places emphasis on traditionally conservative investments, delivering long-term value, yet allowing for growth and expansion. RSBC's strategy is to seek out unique opportunities, which it develops and capitalizes on through a combination of investment and active management, drawing upon generations of experience and knowledge. RSBC is built on a solid foundation of four investment pillars, which it uses to diversify and secure its position on the market. Those being: real estate, private equity, investment funds and wealth management services. For more information, visit [www.rsbcgroup.com](http://www.rsbcgroup.com)

ABOUT AREX

The company's headquarters and production are located in Šentjernej, Slovenia. It was founded in 1994 and currently employs approximately 160 people. In its 10,000 m² Slovenian manufacturing plant, AREX specializes mainly in training ammunition of all calibers, production of self-loading pistols, gun holsters, modern production lines for ammunition manufacturers, armour piercing ammunition and many others. The company also supplies the market with other components of equipment for armed forces, namely protective helmets and vests, special backpacks, knives and other technological solutions. A significant part of the production goes to the demanding and competitive markets of Western Europe and the USA. However, AREX's customers also include major companies from the defense industries of NATO countries, the Middle East and South America, for example Brazil. It also supplies its products to the Slovenian army.