



## PRESS RELEASE

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New Logo for Solingen Shopping Center

# Future shopping centre in Solingen city centre with a fresh brand image focusing on nature, industry and fashion

- New brand image finds inspiration in Solingen's local features
- Logo follows the central theme of "nature, industry and fashion"
- The name of the new shopping centre remains "Hofgarten Solingen"
- Future centre with 29,000 m<sup>2</sup> of gross lettable area (GLA) will revive the city centre of Solingen
- Investment volume of around 120 million euros and creation of new jobs

The Solingen Shopping Center GmbH, a collective project of the joint venture partners MAB Development and Sonae Sierra, announces the brand image of the future shopping centre in the city centre of Solingen. The name "Hofgarten Solingen" remains, but the new logo reflects important themes which stand for the identity of the "city of blades" fromBergisches Land: nature, industry and – with the development of the new shopping location – fashion. The three themes were already singled out in the design phase as a guiding principle shaping the centre.

#### Logo unites the concepts of nature, industry and fashion

The idea of nature is builtin the name "Hofgarten" and isfurther reflected in the summery green, yellow and orange colours of the logo. Light greys and jagged edges refer to Solingen as a significant location in the German blade, knife and cutlery industry. The colourful and circular form also symbolizes the new city centre of Solingen. It shall be positioned in the future as a vivid and attractive centre of the city of blades.

The logo also suggests the future design of the shopping centre Solingen Hofgarten. The exterior design uses natural elements and includes a peripheral crown made of plants as well as a large green wall. The interior also shows design elements taking inspiration from nature and gardens, which enable many areas to function as an oasis of comfort and create a high quality of stay. For example, the large food court area will resemble a green garden. The theme of industry also features prominently in the design of the facade: a large metal scarf wraps around the entire building.

Thomas Binder, Managing Director of Sonae Sierra in Germany, stated: "The new look of Hofgarten reflects exactly what we could wish for Solingen – a vibrant and attractive city centre the local people take pride in and a great place for strolling and shopping. Hofgarten Solingen with its green crown and fabulous facade will be a real eye-catcher that enhances the cityscape significantly. We will show





that high-quality shopping centres not only create sustainable inner-city marketplaces, but they can also be good examples to achieve urban repair architecture."

Michael L. Flesch, Managing Director of MAB Development Deutschland, stated: "The people of Solingen associate the name Hofgarten with the new shopping centre at Graf-Wilhelm-Platz. Since the demolition of the tower, but also thanks to the rapid progress of the construction works, it has become clear to the inhabitants of the city that the standstill is over and something new is being created. Today, when the name Hofgarten is heard, it resonates a lot of positive expectation. Therefore, we have decided to maintain this strong and popular local name."

The Hofgarten Solingen will open its doors in the autumn of 2013. On three levels and approximately 29,000 square meters of gross lettable area (GLA), many attractive international, national and local retailers will be there to offer tailored and modern shopping, service and leisure facilities for 270,000 residents in the catchment area. Around 120 million euros have been invested and several hundreds new jobs are expected to be created.

For further information please follow the link:www.hofgartensolingen.com.

### **About MAB Development**

MAB Development is part of the Rabo Real Estate group, one of Europe's largest real estate concerns with three main activities: Development, finance and investment management. The Rabo Real Estate Group consists of MAB Development, the FGH Bank, Bouwfonds Property Development and Bouwfonds Real Estate Investment Management. It is part of the Rabobank, one of Europe's most stable financial institutions with an AA status, the best rating for private banks. MAB Development is a highly innovative European developer of commercial real estate and multifunctional urban projects. Actual project of MAB Development Germany is the PalaisQuartier in the city of Frankfurt am Main with an investment volume of €1bn. This city centre project consists of five elements: the representative Thurn und Taxis Palais, the shopping centre MyZeil, the office tower NEXTOWER, the hotel Jumeirah Frankfurt and the parking garage PalaisQuartier/MyZeil.

www.mab.com; www.palaisquartier.com

#### **About Sonae Sierra**

**Sonae Sierra**, <u>www.sonaesierra.com</u>, is the international Shopping Centre specialist, with a passion for bringing innovation and excitement to the Shopping Centre industry. The Company owns 51 shopping centres and is present in 11 countries: Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany, Greece, Romania, Croatia, Morocco, Algeria, Colombia and Brazil. In total, Sonae Sierra is responsible for the management of more than 70 shopping centres with an Open Market Value of 6.4 billion euros comprising a total gross lettable area (GLA) of about 2.2 million m² with about 8,500 tenants. In 2011, the Company welcomed more than 428 million visits in the shopping centres it manages. Currently, Sonae Sierra has 7 projects under development, including 4 for third parties, and 6 new projects in pipeline.

#### Media contact:

**MAB Development Deutschland:**Simone Meseg

Schillerstraße 20

**Sonae Sierra:**Birgit C. Neumann
B.C Neumann PR





60313 Frankfurt Tel. +49.69.50 600 53-111 E-Mail: simone.meseg@mab.com Mittelstraße 15-17; 50672 Cologne Tel. +49.221.788 708-25 / M 0151-50433209 E-Mail: neumann@neumann-pr.de