

# Waco Africa buys Abacus building systems

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Pretoria – Waco Africa, the South African business of building-related firm Waco International, has acquired local modular-building systems company Abacus Modular for about R20 million.

The acquisition forms part of Waco's strategy to extend its R2 billion a year turnover modular-building businesses in Australia, New Zealand and the UK into Africa.

Modular buildings are linked modules or sections, which together form larger building structures.

Modules are manufactured in a controlled factory environment and help to prevent time delays associated with traditional brick buildings, such as inclement weather and product supply shortages.



Stephen Goodburn, Waco's group financial director, said yesterday that Abacus was a relatively small firm with about 12 percent local market share.

But Goodburn said this was attractive because it represented a great opportunity for

Waco to grow the business by bringing in the group's modular-building systems technology, expertise and products from its operations in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Goodburn said the entire Abacus senior management

## **BUILDING BLOCKS**

Modular buildings are linked sections, which together form larger building structures. Waco wants to bring Abacus's sustainable building solutions into Africa

had come on board at Waco in terms of the transaction.

Royden Vice, Waco's chief executive, said that Waco was now positioned to meet a growing demand in the education and healthcare sectors, as well as to supply the rapidly expanding mining, commercial industrial and telecommunications industries in Africa.

"The ... government has clearly stated its plans to increase education spend over the next few years, which will include the building of new schools. We believe that cost-effective and sustainable building solutions will be required," Vice said.

Waco International was sold in January this year to Hong Kong-based private equity firm CCMP Capital Asia and the firm's senior management for R5.4 billion.