



## PRESS RELEASE

### **SHV and Entrepreneurs Fund strategic investors in Econcern**

**UTRECHT, 4 APRIL 2006 – The market for sustainable energy worldwide is worth €100 billion and growing strongly. In 2005 the solar energy market expanded by 44% and the wind energy market by 43%. Econcern – a leading, innovative company that specializes in sustainable energy with offices in 10 countries – is well positioned to grow further. With SHV and Entrepreneurs Fund as strategic investors, Econcern has created a secure basis for realising its substantial growth ambitions for the period up to 2010.**

#### ***Econcern well positioned in the fast-growing sustainable energy market***

The market for renewable energy is expanding very rapidly, with overall annual growth figures of 30% worldwide. Econcern, with its mission 'a sustainable energy supply for everyone', was established in 1984. The company now delivers unique projects, as well as innovative products and services that help create a sustainable energy supply worldwide. Econcern sells solar energy systems, and develops wind farms, both on and offshore, biomass plants, and Sea Water Air Conditioning systems. Econcern is continuously developing and implementing efficient, sustainable and better integrated energy systems and concepts that drive the transition towards a sustainable energy supply. Econcern's success is based on two pillars: being innovative and being market-driven; last year it was among Europe's 500 fastest growing companies.

#### ***SHV and Entrepreneurs Fund to invest €80 million in Econcern***

SHV, one of the largest privately owned companies in the Netherlands, is active worldwide trading in and distributing LPG, among other activities. In the light of anticipated strong growth in the sustainable energy market, SHV has decided to establish a strategic partnership with Econcern. SHV will take a 23.3% stake in Econcern with the option to buy another 16.7%. In addition, SHV and Econcern will work together to expand Econcern's activities.

Entrepreneurs Fund, a private equity investor which is fully owned and controlled by COFRA HOLDING AG of Switzerland already has a strong position in the solar energy industry through its investments in a number of leading Solar PV companies. Entrepreneurs Fund will invest in Ecostream International BV, the subsidiary of Econcern which sells solar systems, by taking a 22.8% stake, alongside SHV which will take a 5% stake. Due to the strategic positions of SHV and the Entrepreneurs Fund in this market, Ecostream now has a powerful basis for continued rapid growth.

#### ***Econcern growth to over €1 billion turnover in 2010***

Ad van Wijk, chairman of the Econcern board is pleased with the two new strategic investors: "By developing sustainable energy products, systems and projects over the last two decades, we are well positioned in the fast-growing sustainable energy market. With SHV and the Entrepreneurs Fund as strategic partners, we are now in a stronger position to become one of the leading sustainable energy companies in the decades ahead. We are therefore confident that we can grow our company in a profitable way from a turnover of around €200 million this year, increasing to over €1 billion in 2010."

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**Note for editorial staff:**

**ECONCERN ([www.econcern.com](http://www.econcern.com))**

Econcern is the holding company of Ecofys, Evelop, Ecostream and Ecoventures. The mission of these European companies is to ensure 'a sustainable energy supply for everyone'. Econcern delivers unique projects and innovative products and services for a sustainable energy supply. The Econcern group employs about 400 professionals in ten countries. Econcern is one of Europe's 500 fastest growing companies

- Ecofys: the sustainable energy services and innovations company
- Ecostream: the sustainable energy system supplier
- Evelop: the sustainable energy project developer
- Ecoventures: the sustainable energy innovation entrepreneur.

**SHV ([www.shv.nl](http://www.shv.nl))**

SHV was established in the Netherlands in 1896. Its current activities include:

- trade in and distribution of LPG (SHV Gas)
- trade in food and non-food consumer articles (Makro)
- provision of private equity (NPM Capital)
- trade in and production of raw materials (Recycling)
- exploration and production of oil and gas (Dyas)

**ENTREPRENEURS FUND ([www.efbv.net](http://www.efbv.net))**

Entrepreneurs Fund BV (EFBV) is a private equity investor in fast-growing companies. EFBV is owned and controlled by COFRA HOLDING AG of Switzerland. COFRA HOLDING's activities include:

- Fashion Retail (C&A)
- Real Estate (REDEVCO)
- Private Equity (Bregal)
- Financial Services

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