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SGL Carbon Optimizes Product Portfolio; Sale of Non-core Area / Divestment of Electrical Contacts Business

WIESBADEN, Germany--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 17, 2003--As part of its measures to streamline its portfolio, the SGL Carbon Group has divested its German business in electrical contacts for trains, trams and electric motors over the last few days.

SGL Pantrac GmbH, Berlin, has been taken over by E-Carbon S.A., Brussels. E-Carbon (www.e-carbon.net) is a joint venture of Gerken S.A., Verviers (Belgium), and Helwig Carbon Products Inc., Milwaukee (USA). Both companies are long-standing customers of SGL Carbon Group in the US and Europe. The parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price.

With the sale of this non-core business, which generated annual revenues of approx. (EUR) 12 million, SGL Carbon is withdrawing in a first step from the manufacture of electrical contacts. This is an important step for SGL Carbon to further concentrate on high-tech applications within the business unit Graphite Specialties. The Company already announced in early 2002 that as part of the 5-point program it would divest non-core activities in order to streamline its portfolio and to further reduce financial liabilities.

Important Notice:

This press release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the US Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. It contains forward-looking statements and information relating to sales and earnings figures, based on currently available information. Actual future results and trends could differ materially from those set forth in such statements due to various factors. Such factors include unforeseeable alterations in electric steel production, the possibility of changing economic and competitive conditions, changes in currency rates, technological developments, unanticipated developments relating to recently acquired businesses and Group companies, unforeseen difficulties relating to the investigations by the European antitrust authorities and to the now completed investigation by the Canadian and U.S. antitrust authorities and the civil actions related to these investigations and other risks and uncertainties, including those detailed in the Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. SGL Carbon does not intend to update these forward-looking statements, and does not assume any obligation to do so.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SGL CARBON Aktiengesellschaft

Date: January 17, 2003

By: /s/ Robert J. Kohler

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Name: Robert J. Koehler
Title: Chairman of the Board of Management

By: /s/ Dr. Bruno Toniolo

Name: Dr. Bruno Toniolo
Title: Member of the Board of Management