

Press release

SOCOTEC GROUP ADDS BUILDING CONTROL TO ITS RANGE OF UK SERVICES

The SOCOTEC Group is broadening its range of services in the UK through the acquisition of Butler & Young Group Ltd. B&Y will reinforce SOCOTEC UK, the SOCOTEC Group's UK subsidiary, which is a leading operator in testing in the infrastructure and construction sectors. SOCOTEC is the leader in technical inspection in France, where it generates €100 million in revenue in this field, and is a major European player in TIC¹ and a trusted partner to its client companies.

Formed from Butler & Young Associates in 1970, **Butler & Young Group** is a standard setter in building control in the UK. It was one of the first three UK companies to be appointed approved inspector for all building types in 1997, when the UK market opened up to private players.

Butler & Young Group is headquartered in Croydon, to the south of London, and is composed of three companies:

- **Butler & Young Approved Inspectors**, for building control
- **Trenton Fire**, for fire safety consultancy
- **Butler & Young Consultants**, for built-environment consultancy services.

Butler & Young Group's capital has been held by its three main executives, including Paul Wilkins, who has been CEO since 2006 and will stay with the business as Senior Advisor.

B&Y has 15 offices in the UK, with 13 in England, one in Wales and one in Scotland. Its **175 employees** cover the **whole of the UK**, with 85 of them working in building control. It generated nearly **€11 million in revenue in 2018**, including €7 million from building control. **Butler & Young Approved Inspectors** has been involved in the technical inspection of more than 80,000 construction projects since 1997 for clients in all sectors of activity.

Ian Sparks, CEO of SOCOTEC UK, says: "We're very pleased to extend our range of services and move into building control through the acquisition of Butler & Young Group, which is a very well-known name in the UK. Building control and fire consultancy services will become the fourth leg to our UK business, alongside Infrastructure & Energy, Environment & Safety, and Monitoring. This activity will continue to be managed by the current management teams, with Chis Wallis as Managing Director and Dilshard Mansoor as Head of Finance. The UK market is consolidating and offering room for innovation thanks to digitalisation and BIM. Against this backdrop, we aim to boost this activity. The combination of Butler & Young Group's longstanding expertise in building control and our strong sales drive in the UK should provide us with the right platform for rapid growth."

Hervé Montjotin, SOCOTEC Group CEO, adds: "This acquisition is completely in phase with our aim to become European leader in TIC¹ by 2020 in the construction and infrastructure sectors. It will reinforce our SOCOTEC UK subsidiary by adding expertise in building control and fire safety consultancy. We are extremely pleased and proud to be able to carry out this longstanding activity in the UK, which is our second platform behind France. With Butler & Young Group, which truly fits into the SOCOTEC Group, our UK platform now has a local flagship in building control that will enable it to take a position as a fully-fledged TIC¹ player in construction and infrastructure."

This transaction comes at a moment when the rollout of the SOCOTEC brand is being stepped up outside of France, with the adoption by the Italian subsidiary of the name SOCOTEC Italia on 5 March, the formation of SOCOTEC Monitoring UK following the acquisition of Survey Associates Limited, and the formation of SOCOTEC Infrastructure Maroc in March.

¹ Testing, Inspection & Certification

ABOUT SOCOTEC IN THE UK

In the UK, SOCOTEC is the leading provider of testing, inspection and compliance services, offering comprehensive solutions for the Infrastructure & Waste and Environment & Safety sectors. The company, which employs more than 1,500 people, delivers in excess of 7 million tests a year to over 5,000 clients. In 2018 it generated revenue of €120 million.

With a history dating back over 100 years, SOCOTEC UK, formerly ESG, has nationwide coverage from its 30 locations and its network of 20 UKAS accredited laboratories, and continues to be a significant driver of change and innovation within the industry. By helping clients design solutions and remain compliant to changing legislation, international standards and economic conditions, SOCOTEC has become the UK's leading partner in its chosen sectors for technical expertise and services and is part of the SOCOTEC Group, a major player in TIC for the construction and infrastructure sectors.

SOCOTEC UK has carried out four acquisitions over the past 12 months: ITM Monitoring (March 2018) and Survey Associates (March 2019), which became SOCOTEC Monitoring UK on 5 March 2019; 4see (June 2018); and Butler & Young Group on 12 April 2019. These acquisitions account for total revenue of €22 million.

See www.socotec.co.uk for more information.

ABOUT THE SOCOTEC GROUP

The SOCOTEC Group, headed by Hervé Montjotin, has built its reputation over 65 years as a trusted partner assisting companies in the areas of quality, health and safety, and the environment.

SOCOTEC's mission is to ensure the integrity and performance of assets and people's safety. Through its Testing, Inspection and Certification services, SOCOTEC helps to optimise the performance of companies in every sector by managing the risks inherent in their activities. Drawing on its expertise and positioning itself as a long-term partner, SOCOTEC supports its clients throughout their project's lifecycle.

As France's No. 1 in building control and a major player in TIC (Testing, Inspection, Certification) for the construction and infrastructure sectors, the SOCOTEC Group generates consolidated revenue of €700 million (33% outside France) with 200,000 clients. It has operations in 25 countries, 7,800 employees and over 250 forms of external recognition. In France, its network of 150 locations covers the entire country.

For more information, go to www.socotec.com

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