

Press release

SOCOTEC ACQUIRES EXPERT HABITAT & INDUSTRIE GROUPE TO BECOME FRENCH LEADER IN REAL ESTATE AUDITS AND ASBESTOS SURVEYS

The SOCOTEC Group, a major player in TIC¹ in Europe and trusted partner to its clients, has announced the acquisition of Expert Habitat & Industrie Groupe. The company is among the leaders in real estate audits and asbestos surveys in France and will reinforce SOCOTEC's specialist activity in this field. Together, this new network of services will generate revenue of over €50 million and aims to be the number one in its market.

Set up in 2004, Expert Habitat & Industrie Groupe is headquartered in Arras, northern France. The company offers a full range of asbestos detection and management services, including asbestos engineering, assistance to owners and operators, asbestos identification, air sampling and analysis, and training. With **revenue of close to €20 million**, it is among the five market leaders in France. Ever since its creation in 2004, the company has based its value added on a high level of technical expertise and a keen culture of innovation.

The company works mainly with clients in the public sector (social landlords) and industry and is made up of **five operating subsidiaries**:

- **Expert Habitat & Industrie Ingénierie and Servex Diagnostics**, specialists in asbestos engineering and identification of materials containing asbestos
- **E2C**, which provides assistance to owners and operators (AOO) and asbestos & deconstruction project management
- **Air Habitat Industrie**, which carries out air sampling and analysis
- **Sofortech**, which provides tailor-made training on building pollutants as well as the associated regulatory training.

Expert Habitat & Industrie Groupe has **200 highly skilled employees** who provide services across France **from seven regional branches**: Arras, the Paris region, Nancy, Annecy, Aix en Provence, Bordeaux and Tours.

Up until now, Expert Habitat & Industrie Groupe's capital stock was held by its founder and manager Frédéric Demoulin and by investment firm Nord Capital Partenaires (Turenne Capital Partenaires). **The group will now form part of SOCOTEC's Construction & Real Estate France Business Unit (BU), and will be headed by Emmanuel de Tinguay, director of the Group's Real Estate Audits business line. This new network of services in real estate audits and asbestos at SOCOTEC represents revenue of over €50 million and a 500-strong workforce.**

Franck Pettex-Sorgue, Executive Vice-President, Construction & Real Estate France BU of SOCOTEC, says: "We are very pleased to welcome the teams from Expert Habitat & Industrie. Its arrival in our Group completes SOCOTEC's impact in the audits market. It brings us client segments that complement those for which we carry out real estate audits, with the same positioning of high technical content and quality of service. We're going to be able to use these two networks to combine our respective strengths and offer all our clients the benefits of a greater production capacity, extensive support in managing their asbestos problems, and the advance that SOCOTEC has gained in Building Information Modelling and service digitisation. We have everything it takes to build a champion and aim to become the leader in this industry in 2020."

Hervé Montjotin, SOCOTEC Group CEO, adds: "This acquisition fits right in with our project to be the European leader in TIC¹ in 2020 in the construction and infrastructure sectors. It confirms our leadership in Construction & Real Estate in France, where we now have revenue of over €200 million through four

¹ TIC : Testing, Inspection, Certification

business lines: building control, accident prevention and worksite H&S coordination, assistance with property management & BIM, and real estate audits, which now doubles in size.”

This transaction is the SOCOTEC Group’s third acquisition since the beginning of the year, following on from those of Survey Associates and Butler & Young Group in the UK.

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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