



Groupe RG in exclusive negotiations to acquire Groupe Vandeputte

With this forthcoming acquisition, Groupe RG exceeds half a billion in sales, and takes another decisive step towards achieving its development strategy aimed at making it the independent leader in specialized PPE distribution in Europe.

Groupe RG has today entered into exclusive negotiations with the shareholders of Groupe Vandeputte with a view to acquiring it. The Vandeputte Group comprises the Vandeputte Safety, ProsaFCO and S4M banners and companies. This acquisition will be effective after completion of regulatory formalities.

Ardian Expansion and Latour Capital, who acquired Groupe RG in December 2021 alongside its management, are supporting this acquisition by increasing their stakes.

Pierre Manchini, Chairman and CEO of Groupe RG, comments: "The acquisition of Groupe Vandeputte is a significant step in the development of our Group. It confirms our strategic ambition to become the leading PPE specialist in Europe. It is also a key moment for the Vandeputte Group, a family business founded over 70 years ago in Belgium, and for its CEO Dirk Vandeputte. I am therefore honored by the confidence he has shown in us by agreeing to link the destinies of our companies.

In the course of our discussions, Dirk and I have come to realize the extent to which our companies share common histories, values and visions. It was these similarities, combined with our shared ambitions, that convinced us of the relevance of this merger and of our ability to succeed together tomorrow.

Far from being the end of the story for the Vandeputte Group, this is a new chapter that we will be co-writing with Dirk, who remains at my side in this new and exciting adventure".

Dirk Vandeputte, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Managing Director of Vandeputte Safety Experts, adds: "We have thought long and hard about the future of the family-owned group, in a market environment where there has been an accelerated concentration of players in recent years. We came to the conclusion that Groupe RG was the best partner for us, not only to ensure the long-term future and development of our company, but also to preserve its identity and values, while integrating it into a broader, more ambitious project. Convinced of the relevance of this operation, our family shareholders and I are reinvesting significantly in the capital of the newly formed group.

I look forward to working alongside Pierre to realize our shared vision. This operation is obviously important for our companies, but it also represents a real *game changer* for the PPE market in Europe.

Press release

About Groupe RG: With sales of over €330 million, 1,000 employees, 46 branches & subsidiaries in France and Europe, and the leading French network of independent PPE distributors (EPI Center), GROUPE RG is the leader in specialized PPE distribution in France and a benchmark player in Europe. Its sustained organic growth is accompanied by a dynamic acquisitions policy supporting its strategy of becoming the specialist in PPE distribution and associated services in Europe. Since 2019, the Group has completed 12 acquisitions in France, Spain, Italy, Tunisia, Slovakia and Ireland.

<https://www.groupe-rg.com/>

About Groupe Vandeputte (VDP): Founded in 1947 in Belgium, Groupe VDP is a leader in specialized PPE distribution in the Benelux countries. The family-owned company generates sales of nearly €145 million and employs 300 people. VDP is the parent company of Vandeputte Safety Experts, Prosafco and S4M.

<https://www.vdp.com/>

<https://www.prosafco.be>

<https://www.solutions4materials.com>

Groupe RG

Pierre Manchini, Franck Ramout, Olivier Petit

Ardian Expansion

Arnaud Dufer, Maxime Séquier, Alexis Auchère

Latour Capital

Philippe Léoni, Nicholas Whitbeck, Antoine Bonnefous

Groupe Vandeputte

Dirk Vandeputte, Stefan Vandeputte, Bart Roscam

Advisors to Groupe RG

DD finance & tax ; Véronique Gillis, Koen Vermoere - PWC

DD legal and transaction: Grégoire Andrieux, Edouard Baladès - McDermott Will & Emery

DD IT: Lionel Gros - Netsystem

DD ESG: Maryelle Ouvrard - ERM

DD Assurances: Déborah Hauchemaille - Finaxy

Advisors to VDP

Transaction: Frank Demoen, Rothschild & Co

VDD finance: Philippe Fimmers, 8 Advisory

VDD legal and transaction: Juno Hautekiet - Allen & Overy

VDD tax: Christian Van Craeyvelt, 8 Advisory