



Alkern completes the acquisition of Groupe Duroux

Harnes, France, October 1st 2014

Alkern and Philippe Duroux, the founder and majority shareholder of Groupe Duroux, today announce the merger of Alkern and Groupe Duroux, the two producers of concrete products.

Alkern is the largest independent producer of concrete prefabricated products in France and Belgium. The group operates in three markets: construction, landscaping and public works & sanitation. The group employs more than 750 people on 39 production sites and generates revenues of approximately €150 million. Since it was bought by the private equity firm Fondations Capital in May 2010, Alkern has completed 13 acquisitions.

Groupe Duroux is a family company founded in 1986 by Philippe Duroux, who currently manages the company and is the majority shareholder. Groupe Duroux is a leading producer of concrete building blocks in the South-West of France and is a key national player for landscaping products, notably through its well-known brand Pierra. Groupe Duroux employs 260 people on 15 production sites and generates revenues of approximately €55 million.

With combined total revenues of more than €200 million, the acquisition strengthens Alkern's position in the South-West of France and broaden its range of landscaping products. Philippe Duroux will hold a minority stake in the new group alongside Fondations Capital to keep supporting the development of the company and he will also become a member of Alkern's supervisory board.

Philippe Renauld, Chairman of the supervisory board of Alkern commented: *"Following the acquisition by Fondations Capital in 2010, Alkern has continued to develop. Supported by innovation and external growth, it reached an important milestone with a turnover of more than €200 million and more than 1000 employees. This 14th acquisition will allow us to continue to build its regional presence on more than 50 sites and confirms Alkern's role in the industry consolidation. The acquisition will improve the services offered to our clients and further promote the sector and innovation therein."*

Bertrand Bedel, CEO of Alkern, added: *"The acquisition of Groupe Duroux marks a new phase of Alkern's growth in France. The combined know-how of the teams, as well as the ability to innovate strengthens the offering in order to strengthen clients' satisfaction across France. Through the merger, Alkern confirms its ambition to be a major force in the French concrete industry."*

Philippe Duroux, founder and CEO of Groupe Duroux commented: *"The merger of Alkern and Groupe Duroux will allow both companies to accelerate their business developments through the combined strong culture of innovation and teamwork as well as a long-term perspective on performance. I am delighted to partner with Fondations Capital for the next chapter of Alkern's history."*

The acquisition was approved by the competition authorities on September, 24th 2014.

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