



Joint press release

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KBC Arkiv invests in Concrete Systems

KBC Arkiv, the joint subsidiary of KBC Private Equity and ARKimedea, is to invest in the further development of Concrete System NV, the fast-growing Roeselare-based company that manufactures, sells and rents out shuttering frames for concrete-based projects.

Concrete Systems was originally a distributor of shuttering material for an existing manufacturer, but started to develop and produce its own shuttering systems in 2006, under the Conalu brand name. Since then, the company – driven forward by business manager Francky Callens – has experienced explosive growth. Concrete Systems positions itself as a player that creates high added value by focusing on service, quality, innovation and contractor training. Its customer base is situated mainly in East and West Flanders, but it also delivers shuttering frames to customers in Antwerp, Brussels, Liège, Charleroi, the Netherlands and the north of France. It has worked on a number of major projects, including the Schierveldstadion (sports stadium) and the Accent Business Park in Roeselare, the extension of the Kortrijk Xpo Halls and the new AZ nursing home in Bruges.

The investment being made by KBC Arkiv is aimed at strengthening the capital structure of Concrete Systems. Besides Francky Callens and KBC Arkiv, Steven Soetaert will be acquiring a stake in the company. Mr Soetaert was previously active in the financial sector and has built up the requisite experience in project development over the past few years. He will concentrate on financial and commercial support within Concrete Systems.

Francky Callens, Business Manager of Concrete Systems, had this to say: 'Thanks in part to the support of KBC Arkiv, Concrete Systems is in a position to continue growing in the years to come. We will soon make a start on building a third production hall and will be looking to invest in additional production capacity and in new machinery. By ensuring that a quality product and proper service is provided, Concrete Systems aims to consolidate its position in the market for shuttering frames.'

'Concrete Systems has had a fine track record over the past few years. We are convinced that it is well placed to further consolidate its market share and we are keen to support Francky Callens and his aim to continue growing the company through focused investment. The capital injection provided by KBC Arkiv has established a solid financial basis for such growth', concluded Philippe De Vicq, Managing Director of KBC Private Equity.

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NOTE FOR THE EDITOR:

About Concrete Systems

Concrete Systems specialises in manufacturing, selling and renting out shuttering frames under the Conalu brand name. Conalu is a multi-functional and rapidly deployable shuttering system for all concrete-based projects. Thanks to its wide range of shuttering panels, Concrete Systems can carry out a variety of projects that are fully tailored to the needs of the customer. The production facilities are highly automated and are situated in Roeselare (Belgium).

For more information, surf to www.concrete-systems.be.

About KBC Arkiv

A joint subsidiary of KBC Private Equity and Arkimedes, KBC Arkiv provides development capital and advice to innovative and fast-growing Flemish companies. KBC Arkiv is a 10-year closed-end fund with an investment budget of 25 million euros. It is managed by KBC Private Equity. KBC Arkiv already has fifteen Flemish growth companies in its investment portfolio. For more information, surf to www.kbcarkiv.be.

About KBC Private Equity

KBC Private Equity – the private equity company of KBC group – provides development capital, finances buy-outs, and provides funds and advice to medium-sized companies in KBC's home markets of Belgium and Central and Eastern Europe. Boasting an experienced team of 29 people, it has more than 60 active investments in portfolio with a market value in excess of 300 million EUR. For more information, surf to www.kbcpe.be.

About ARKImedes

ARKImedes (*Activering RisicoKapitaal*) is an initiative launched by the Flemish Government to make private equity available to fast-growing Flemish companies. It has raised 110 million euros from private investors and aims to use these resources to double the private equity pumped into Flemish SMEs by professional investment funds (i.e. by investing up to one euro extra for each euro invested by these funds). For more information, surf to www.arkimedes.be.