



ACKERMANS & VAN HAAREN

PRESS RELEASE

# SOFINIM REACHES AN AGREEMENT TO SELL ITS PARTICIPATION IN HERTEL

Antwerp,  
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Regulated information within  
the meaning  
of the Royal Decree of  
14 November 2007

# SOFINIM REACHES AN AGREEMENT TO SELL ITS PARTICIPATION IN HERTEL

Sofinim (AvH 74%) and NPM Capital agreed to sell their participation in Hertel (Sofinim 47.5%) to Altrad.

The combination of Altrad and Hertel, which will have a joint annual turnover in excess of 1.6 billion euros and employing approximately 17,000 people, will result in a leading company in multi-disciplinary technical services in Europe, the Middle East, Caspian and Asia Pacific.

The agreement has the full support of Hertel's management, and is subject to the customary approval of competition authorities as well as completion of the consultation process with the works council. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2015.

The transaction will have a positive effect on the cash position of Ackermans & van Haaren of approximately 85 million euros and will result in a limited capital gain.

We refer to the joint press release of Hertel and Altrad for more details.





### Financial calendar

March 31, 2015	Annual report 2014
May 20, 2015	Quarterly update Q1 2015
May 26, 2015	Ordinary general meeting

**Ackermans & van Haaren** is a diversified group active in 5 key segments: Infrastructure & Marine Engineering (DEME, one of the largest dredging companies in the world - CFE and A.A. Van Laere, two construction groups with headquarters in Belgium), Private Banking (Delen Private Bank, one of the largest independent private asset managers in Belgium, and asset manager JM Finn in the UK - Bank J. Van Breda & C°, niche bank for entrepreneurs and liberal professions in Belgium), Real Estate, Leisure & Senior Care (Leas-invest Real Estate, a public regulated real estate com-

pany - Extensa, an important land and real estate developer focused on Belgium and Luxembourg), Energy & Resources (Sipef, an agro-industrial group in tropical agriculture) and Development Capital (Sofinim and GIB).

In 2014, through its share in its participations, the AvH group represented a turnover of 5.9 billion euros and employed 22,633 people. The group concentrates on a limited number of strategic participations with significant potential for growth. AvH is quoted on the BEL20 index, the Private Equity

NXT index of Euronext Brussels and the European DJ Stoxx 600.

### Website

All press releases issued by AvH and its most important group companies as well as the 'Investor Presentation' can also be consulted on the AvH website: [www.avh.be](http://www.avh.be). Anyone who is interested to receive the press releases via email has to register to this website.

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## **Altrad to acquire Hertel to create a leading company in multi-disciplinary technical services**

Montpellier (France), Rotterdam (the Netherlands), 17 March 2015

Altrad and the shareholders of Hertel have reached an agreement with respect to the acquisition by Altrad of Hertel's worldwide access solutions, insulation, corrosion protection and mechanical businesses. This agreement has the full support of Hertel's management, and is subject to the customary approval of competition authorities as well as completion of the consultation process with Hertel's works council. The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2015.

The combination of Altrad and Hertel, which will have a joint annual turnover in excess of € 1.6 billion and employing approximately 17,000 people, will result in a leading company in its businesses in Europe, the Middle East, Caspian and Asia Pacific.

Hertel Offshore, which designs, constructs and delivers living quarters and accommodation modules, will not be included in the transaction. Hertel Offshore will be continued under the ownership of NPM Capital and Sofinim (the development capital affiliate of Ackermans & van Haaren). Hertel's senior management will stay involved with the Offshore operations. The Offshore business had a turnover of € 60 million in 2014. The business will change its name going forward.

### **Highlights**

- In 2014, under new leadership, Hertel has successfully completed a turnaround, aimed at restoring Hertel's financial and operational performance. Upon completion of the acquisition by Altrad, Hertel will become part of a strong independent group, offering ample opportunities for further sustainable growth of its businesses in Europe, the Middle East, Caspian and Asia Pacific;
- For Altrad the acquisition of Hertel is a major step in becoming a leading technical service provider in Europe, and getting access to the Middle East, Caspian and Asia Pacific in industrial services;
- The combination of both companies will have a joint turnover of more than € 1.6 billion with 17,000 employees, and with a complementary portfolio of services and geographic presence. Both Altrad and Hertel realised some € 800 million turnover in 2014;
- Cross-sell opportunities between both companies' existing customer bases, operating leverage through the maximised use of assets and exchange of both companies best practices will offer instant synergy opportunities;
- NPM Capital and Sofinim have been the majority shareholders of Hertel since 1998. They are convinced that, with the acquisition by Altrad, a strong and strategic partner has been found, and that the combination of both companies will create a leading company in Europe in its markets; and
- Hertel will continue to operate under its current leadership and the Hertel brand.



'We consider Hertel a promising and exciting company with an attractive long-term growth potential, solid management and corporate values very similar to Altrad,' said Mohed Altrad, President Altrad Group. 'Combining management teams with different sets of experience will enable us to actively exchange ideas and best practices, thereby making the combination a benchmark in its industries.'

Tom Bamelis, Chairman of the Hertel Supervisory Board said: 'During the 17 years that Sofinim and NPM Capital have been shareholders, Hertel has developed from a regional company to a leading industrial services supplier, active in Europe, the Middle East, Caspian and Asia Pacific. The shareholders have supported the development of the company throughout this period. They are convinced that the Altrad-Hertel combination will bring new opportunities for further profitable growth.'

'We are excited about this new step in the rich history of Hertel,' said Victor Aquina, CEO of Hertel. 'With dedication, we have been able to successfully finalise the turnaround of Hertel and develop a strong foundation, together with our shareholders, for a bright future for our company. Altrad will be an excellent partner, enabling Hertel to realise its ambitions in accordance with our long term growth strategy. I am convinced that this transaction is in the best interest of Hertel, for our customers, our employees and our shareholders.'

#### **Building a global market leader**

The offerings of Altrad and Hertel are highly complementary; from a customer, geographical as well as products and services perspective. The rationale for combining the two companies is found in the following areas:

- The increased presence in Europe, with a portfolio of multi-disciplinary services, will be attractive for multinational operating customers searching for integrated solutions;
- The complementary nature of both product and services offerings will accelerate cross-sell opportunities and cost synergies across all geographies;
- Being a scaffold manufacturer, Altrad will be able to supply Hertel directly with best in class scaffold material. For Hertel the security of quality scaffold material supplied on this scale will be of value to its businesses;
- Management and usage of equipment will be optimised across the two businesses and thereby reduce capital needs; and
- Management teams will benefit from the different sets of experiences, competences and best practices.

Founded in 1984 by Mohed Altrad, Altrad has successfully developed since through a combination of organic growth and acquisitions, and has today become one of the world's leaders for scaffolding solutions as well as carrying, mixing and compacting products in both civil and industrial markets. Altrad has operations in 16 countries throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and America, and turnover in more than 100 countries. Altrad's annual turnover amounted to € 860 million for its financial year ending August 2014.

Hertel is a leading international industrial services company, supporting the needs of customers around the globe with a range of customised solutions that are centred around access solutions, insulation, corrosion protection and mechanical services. Hertel has operations in 16 countries spread over Europe, the Middle East, Caspian and Asia Pacific. Hertel's annual turnover amounted to € 815 million in 2014.

### **Indicative timetable**

Altrad and Hertel intend to complete all necessary consultation processes and to obtain competition clearances as soon as practicable. The envisaged transaction is expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2015.

### **Transaction value and financing**

The transaction values Hertel at an enterprise value of € 230 million. Altrad will finance the transaction through convertible bonds ("ORA" and "OBSA") subscribed by its financial shareholders BPI France, CM CIC Investissement, Arkéa Capital Investissement and BNP Paribas Développement as well as a new syndicated loan with its existing banks, led by Natixis and BNP Paribas. A bond issuance led by Natixis ("Euro PP") is expected to take place during Q2 2015.

### **Advisors**

KPMG and Allen & Overy have been acting as financial and legal advisors to NPM Capital and Sofinim. E&Y has performed the financial due diligence and Clifford Chance has been acting as legal advisors to Altrad. De Pardieu Brocas Maffei has been acting as the legal advisor to the financing banks. Duteil Avocats have been acting as legal advisors to Altrad's financial shareholders.

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### **Notes to the editors**

#### **About Altrad**

Altrad is a leading international company with around 7,000 professionals, devoted to services, rental and sale of equipment for construction and public works. Over the last fifteen years, driven by a combination of organic growth and acquisition, Altrad's turnover has increased sevenfold.

#### **About Hertel**

Hertel, since 1895, is a leading international, multi-disciplinary, industrial services company. It supports its customers with access solutions, insulation, corrosion protection, mechanical and non-process related technical services in the industry. Hertel is working for triple-A customers in the oil and gas, process, energy and offshore industries. Because of the international presence of Hertel's customers, the company is organised in and around the locations of its customers. Safety and quality are key to Hertel's performance.

Hertel differentiates itself by offering integrated services throughout all phases of the lifecycle of industrial assets: from the building of new assets, to maintenance, shut downs, modifications and decommissioning. Thanks to its international presence and its professional workforce of about 10,000 employees, Hertel has been able to develop long-term relationships with its customers in Europe, the Middle East, Caspian and Asia Pacific.

For more information visit: [www.hertel.com](http://www.hertel.com)