

Zwijndrecht, 06 January 2012

Axe Investments enters into Egemin Automation

Axe Investments NV purchased a 20.9% participation in Egemin International NV (Zwijndrecht) from Sofinim NV (Ackermans & van Haaren NV). Egemin supplies advanced automation solutions that provide added value to industrial companies' logistics and production processes. The company employs 620 people in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, the USA, Switzerland, and, most recently, China.

Quote Christian Leysen, Chairman of Axe Investments: "Egemin has a growth strategy and expertise that dovetails with the investment strategy of Axe Investments and its shareholders. Together with the investments made by Axe Investments in the ICT company Xylos and the global Ahlers network, we believe in the further valorisation of technological knowledge in Belgium and abroad. We are therefore delighted to be associated with the continued development of Egemin."

Quote Luc Bertrand, CEO Ackermans & van Haaren: "The entry of Axe Investments in Egemin constitutes an additional step in our long-standing partnership within Axe with Christian Leysen and is an interesting opportunity to deploy our teams and financial resources within Axe strategically. Christian Leysen will bring valuable logistics expertise to support the Egemin management in the international expansion of the company."

Quote Jan Vercammen, CEO Egemin: "Egemin is delighted to be able to count for its strategic growth plans on strong shareholders with long-term vision. Their operational involvement will help us further develop our business model. Critical elements in this respect are the focus on selected industries, key account management and lifecycle services, all within an international context."

Axe Investments NV is a holding company owned by Anacom BVBA (Christian Leysen) and Sofinim NV (Ackermans & van Haaren NV). In the second half of 2011, Sofinim increased its 29.8% stake in Egemin to 80.4% through the acquisition of the participations of Mercator and KBC Private Equity. With Axe Investments joining Egemin, Sofinim's direct interest decreases to 59.5%; taking into account its indirect interest in Axe Investments, Sofinim maintains a beneficial interest of 69.6% in Egemin. Christian Leysen will join the board of directors of Egemin.

For more information:

Egemin Automation
Jan Vercammen – CEO

Baarbeek 1 - 2070 Zwijndrecht

Tel.: +32 3 641 1252, Fax: +32 3 641 2252, E-mail: jan.vercammen@egemin.be

Website: www.egemin.com

Egemin Automation supplies advanced industry automation solutions that bring added value to the internal logistics and production processes of industrial companies. We deliver made-to-measure solutions for various applications in selected industries to give our customers a competitive advantage over their competitors. Our target industries include markets such as distribution & logistics, life sciences, food & beverage, oil & gas, paper & print and infrastructure. We approach the market from four divisions, each with a specific focus:

- » **Handling Automation** (automation of intralogistics and material handling processes),
- » **Life Sciences** (validation, compliance and automation for the life sciences industry),
- » **Process Automation** (process automation for the food, oil and gas, and chemical industries)
- » **Infra Automation** (automation of bridges, locks, tunnels, weirs and pumping stations).

We support our customers with professional advice, integrated project implementation and dedicated lifecycle services during the life time of installations. **Egemin Automation** operates internationally from its headquarters in Belgium and various other offices across Europe, North America and Asia with a total work force of 620 committed employees.