



PRESS RELEASE

From Executive Board ERIKS group nv, Alkmaar, the Netherlands
Telephone +31 72 54 75 888
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Subject ACQUISITION BAUDOIN GROUP IN MOL, BELGIUM

The 10th of January 2002 ERIKS group nv announced the acquisition of the Baudoin group in Mol, Belgium. The due diligence has been completed and the agreement to acquire all shares has been signed. The agreement will now be presented to the Belgium authority of competition. It is to be expected that the complete acquisition will be finalized in May 2002.

The activities of the Baudoin group comprise the marketing, sales and partly manufacturing of a wide range of technical components to mainly the industrial maintenance market. With approximately 250 employees the group achieves sales of well over EUR 40 million. Based in Mol where also the central warehouse and the engineering workshop are situated, the Baudoin group has also 8 branches in Belgium and Luxembourg and 2 in the Netherlands. The range of technical components consists of:

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| ▪ Power transmissions (including bearings) | 35% |
| ▪ Tools | 40% |
| ▪ Hoses and couplings | 10% |
| ▪ Seals, plastics and rubber molded parts | 10% |
| ▪ Others | 5% |

This acquisition fits in with ERIKS' policy of strengthening the market position in the Netherlands and Belgium by way of more local presence.

With this acquisition

- ERIKS obtains 10 additional branches close to its (potential) customers in the maintenance market;
- ERIKS obtains via these branches opportunities to substantially increase the sale of its current product groups and to further optimize its services;
- ERIKS substantially expands its position in the product group mechanical power transmissions (bearings, V-belts, chains) and adds a new core activity 'tools' to its product range;
- ERIKS obtains a 25% interest in Tradcom. Tradcom.com has at its disposal a portal that is completely oriented towards easy offering of technical components to industrial customers via the electronic way.

The acquisition will be financed from the company's own resources. The results of the Baudoin group have been consolidated as of 1 January 2002 and immediately contribute positively to results.

PROFILE

ERIKS group nv is the Dutch holding company of a group of technical distribution companies established in nine countries. The geographic concentration of activities is in Western Europe (Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and France). In addition, the ERIKS group also operates in North America and South-east Asia (Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand).

Sales of EUR 339.6 million were realized in 2001 with an average workforce of 1,694.

The aim of the ERIKS group is to build up a leading market position in Western and Central Europe to become a truly 'European player'. At the same time, the ERIKS group wants to have a presence in North-America and South-east Asia.

The ERIKS group presents itself as a trading company driven by know-how and added value. The ERIKS group is active in purchasing, storage, processing, distribution and sale of an extensive range of high-quality mechanical engineering components. With strongly developed technical and logistics support and know-how of products and applications, the ERIKS group serves all branches of industry. The first matter of importance for all activities is to offer added value through wide and deep product lines, know-how and processing.

The current product range is divided into six core activities and their associated product groups:

- Sealing Technology (dynamic and static sealing elements)
- Power Transmissions (hydraulics, pneumatics, electrical and mechanical power transmissions, bearings)
- Flow Technology (valves and instrumentation, plastic piping, hoses and accessories)
- Industrial Plastics
- Tools and Maintenance Products
- Technical and Logistics Services.

MISSION

The mission of the ERIKS group is to be a leading international distribution company that serves all branches of industry with a wide range of high-quality mechanical engineering components and related technical and logistics services, as well as with a broad knowledge of products and applications.

Please refer to our web site www.eriks.com for detailed information about the ERIKS group.