



Press release

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The Ebert HERA Esser Group reaches an agreement on the takeover of the Sitech service division as part of its ambition to become the leading service provider in the Benelux region and Germany

The family business from Baden-Württemberg is active in Germany and the Benelux region as a leading player in the maintenance of industrial plants. The proposed takeover of Sitech's service activities will considerably strengthen Ebert HERA's ambition to offer clients multidisciplinary solutions—ranging from engineering to implementation—helping them to maintain assets more efficiently and drive forward the energy transition. Sitech is a service provider offering a unique proposition — its multidisciplinary approach characterises the service provision in the fields of maintenance, turnarounds and projects, combined with comprehensive expertise in brownfield engineering is unique in the market. The acquisition is subject to approval by a number of parties, including the competition regulators and positive advice from works councils.

Sitech plays a key role at the Chemelot industrial site in Geleen, which is home to around sixty chemical plants and dozens of other businesses. In addition to the modernisation of many factories at Chemelot, the company also plays a central role in ensuring safety at the industrial park with its industrial fire and security division. Once independent—subject to advice of the works councils and the approval of the competition regulators—the service division will be taken over by a German industry peer, the Ebert HERA Esser Group. This is good news for both parties as it will allow them to combine their knowledge, expertise and the outstanding potential of their technical personnel, and ensure that they are all deployed in the best possible way to take on the current challenges in the chemicals industry.

Combining strengths and growth ambitions to become the leading service provider in the Benelux region and Germany

The acquisition offers both parties the opportunity to grow together as the leading service provider working to ensure a sustainable, safe and competitive processing industry. Ebert HERA was founded in 1949 and is a traditional German family business from Baden-Baden that currently employs the 3rd generation of the family. Ebert HERA is active in Germany and the Benelux region as a leading player in the maintenance of industrial plants. It counts companies such as BASF, BP, Evonik, Shell, Bayer, INEOS and SABIC among its customers. The company also has years of experience at the Chemelot site in Geleen.

Dr Beate Ebert, owner of the Ebert HERA Esser Group, is very enthusiastic about the proposed acquisition of Sitech: *"The acquisition of Sitech's service activities will considerably strengthen our ambition to offer clients multidisciplinary solutions—ranging from engineering to implementation—helping us to maintain assets more efficiently and drive forward the energy transition. It is also important to us that acquiring Sitech will allow us to add staff and executive positions to our group, located at the geographical centre of our business. In this way, Sitech will provide a framework for facilitating further growth in the Benelux region and Germany. Both businesses complement each other very well and we are pleased to be able to combine our strengths and create a successful future. It is my goal to become the leading service provider in our sector in the Benelux region and Germany."*

Sitech will continue as an independent business within the Ebert HERA Esser Group and is a service provider offering a unique proposition — the multidisciplinary approach characterises the service provision in the fields of maintenance, turnarounds and projects, combined with comprehensive expertise in brownfield engineering is unique in the market. The acquisition by Ebert HERA will significantly enhance the operational effectiveness of Sitech and will give rise to plenty of opportunities at and outside of Chemelot.

"The new owner Ebert HERA, sees Sitech as a partner, which means we're starting from a great position. The knowledge, professionalism and expertise of each party will enhance the other. Furthermore, a strong parent company will make it easier to achieve both the expansion of the services we offer at Chemelot and our ambitions for growth outside of Chemelot", states Dassen.

Retention of personnel and continuity of services

Sitech has been guaranteed long-term employment security and brings with it a significant amount of own capital and a strong management team. This will enable the company to act as an independent company within the Ebert HERA Esser Group and puts it in an excellent position to shape its own future and ensure that the unique, multidisciplinary services it provides remain intact. The vast majority of Sitech's approximately 850 employees will continue to be employed by the service division. Specialist employees who have been seconded to one of the 6 shareholders for some time now (approximately 10% of the employees) will be given the opportunity to voluntarily enter into employment with their current employers in order to shape the future client-supplier relationship. Managed Services and service provision within the framework of Engineering Services, Sourcing & Supply Chain, will remain part of Sitech.

We look forward to the joint future with Sitech!



Note to editors

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