

Press release

SOCOTEC STRENGTHENS ITS POSITION IN GERMANY BY ACQUIRING SCHOLLENBERGER KAMPFMITTELBERGUNG GMBH

- THE TRANSACTION REPRESENTS THE EIGHTH ACQUISITION IN 2018.
- WITH THIS STEP SOCOTEC DOUBLES ITS GERMAN REVENUE TO OVER €80 MILLION, MAKING IT ONE OF THE LARGEST TIC PLAYERS IN GERMANY IN THE BUILDING, REAL-ESTATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS

Paris, 8 November 2018. SOCOTEC Group, a major player in TIC (Testing, Inspection and Certification), is intensifying its presence in Germany with the acquisition of Schollenberger, the German leader in ground investigation services for ordnance detection, from Finatem. Finatem is an independent private equity company with a focus on the German SME sector.

Schollenberger was founded in 1998 and is headquartered in Celle, Lower Saxony. Headed by Klaus Löhle and Boris Töller, the company specialises in civil explosive ordnance detection on land and at sea. It has expertise and experience in depth sounding, surface probing, soil sieving and water probing.

As the German and Austrian leader in ordnance detection involved in major construction and infrastructure projects, Schollenberger employs 400 people at 10 sites across both countries. In total, the company will generate about €40 million in revenue in 2018.

A major player in TIC for the construction and infrastructure sectors, SOCOTEC will generate consolidated revenue of over €700 million in 2018 with 200,000 clients. It has operations in 25 countries and over 7,000 employees. In Germany, it has been operating since 2008 through Canzler, which specialises in consulting, inspection, design and project management services to real-estate owners. In 2017, SOCOTEC entered the German infrastructure and energy market by acquiring ZPP Ingenieure, which offers inspection, consulting and design services, with a specific focus on structural engineering.

The acquisition of Schollenberger provides SOCOTEC with expertise in Testing (analyses and measurements) in Germany and makes it one of the country's largest TIC players in the building, real-estate and infrastructure markets. The SOCOTEC Group now has more than 800 people generating more than €80 million in revenue in 17 different locations in Germany.

Hervé Montjotin, CEO of SOCOTEC Group, said: "We are very happy to welcome Schollenberger, with its strong and recognised technical expertise, to the SOCOTEC Group. Thanks to Schollenberger's testing and ground investigation services, SOCOTEC is entering into a third activity in Germany, which will be a good addition to the existing consulting and inspection services in infrastructure (ZPP Ingenieure) and real estate (Canzler). The acquisition will allow us to become a powerful TIC actor and trusted partner in the German market, with a value proposition different from pure engineering players. This is an important step towards reaching the Group 2020 revenue goal of €800 million and enabling us to strengthen one of our four European platforms: France, UK, Germany and Italy."

Boris Töller, Joint Managing Director of Schollenberger, added: "We are very pleased to have SOCOTEC and its excellent experience on our side, especially for our infrastructure services and international business." Klaus Löhle, Joint Managing Director of Schollenberger, pointed out: "This will help us to continue our expansion course, as well as the overall development of testing activities for the SOCOTEC Group in Germany."

SOCOTEC's acquisition of Schollenberger is its **eighth transaction of this kind in 2018**. In the first half of the year, it acquired AJA Registrars Group based in Asia, ITM Monitoring and 4see in the UK, PSP Tunnelling in Germany, Axe QSE in Morocco and DIMMS Group in Italy, as well as a minority stake in the French startup BIM in Motion. **Together, these acquisitions represent cumulative full-year revenue of €75 million. Moreover, they will positively impact the Group's margins.**

ABOUT SOCOTEC

The SOCOTEC Group, headed by Hervé Montjotin, has built its reputation over 65 years as a trusted partner assisting companies in the areas of quality, health and safety, and the environment.

SOCOTEC's mission is to ensure the integrity and performance of assets and people's safety. Through its Testing, Inspection and Certification services, SOCOTEC helps to optimise the performance of companies in every sector by managing the risks inherent in their activities. Drawing on its expertise and positioning itself as a long-term partner, SOCOTEC supports its clients throughout their project's lifecycle.

As France's No. 1 in construction inspection and a major player in TIC (Testing, Inspection, Certification) for the construction and infrastructure sectors, the SOCOTEC Group generates consolidated revenue of €700 million (33% outside France) with 200,000 clients. It has operations in 25 countries, 7,400 employees and over 250 forms of external recognition. In France, its network of 150 locations covers the entire country and includes 32 training centres.

For more information, go to www.socotec.com

ABOUT SCHOLLENBERGER KAMPFMITTELBERGUNG GMBH

Founded in 1998 and headquartered in Celle, Lower Saxony, in Germany, Schollenberger Kampfmittelbergung GmbH is recognised throughout Germany for its services in ordnance detection on land and water.

Headed by Klaus Löhle and Boris Töller, the company's expertise and experience is in depth sounding, surface probing, soil sieving and water probing.

In total, the company will generate about €40 million in revenue in 2018.

Schollenberger GmbH has a total workforce of 400 employees located in 10 offices. German offices: Celle, Hamburg, Berlin, Bochum, Döbeln, Mannheim, Bonn and Bad Abbach. Austrian offices: Wiener Neustadt and Linz.

For more information, go to www.schollenberger.de

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