



Press release provided by : Ursula ZUKOWSKI
Marketing & Communication
Tel : +33 4 37 20 15 00
Fax : +33 4 37 20 15 88

Press release MSC & SGCC together in the TIAMA Group.

31 January 2008

LBO France, Tiama group management and employees have reached an agreement with Atria Capital Partners and Verrela management for the takeover of Verrela by Tiama, thereby bringing together MSC and SGCC.

By joining the strengths of their respective groups, Edouard Marienbach, President of the Board of Tiama, and Luc Boulant, President of the Board of SGCC, make out of TIAMA group the world leader in vision-based inspection systems, setting the standard in the fields of hollow glass, automotive, food & beverage inspections and now, ophthalmic industry.

The increase in size will significantly broaden the R&D potential and the range of services world-wide for Tiama group customers.

With three main sites in France (Lyon, Rennes and now Gennevilliers) Tiama is also present throughout the world with subsidiaries in Belgium, Germany, Spain, USA and China and an office in Russia.

In 2007 the group achieved sales of nearly €110M, 85% of which were exports.

Tiama dedicates 10% of its revenue to R&D, to develop new vision technology equipment for:

- on line inspection and quality control
- consumer safety
- brand protection
- traceability

The new structure of the Tiama group will have the organisation and resources to provide a comprehensive range of services in all its markets and have a strong presence with staff based in France, Germany, Spain, Russia, USA, Central America, South America, China and soon South Africa.

The group now has 5 Business Units:

- hollow glass industry - MSC, SGCC and Visiglas brands
- automotive industry - EDIXIA brand,
- food & beverage industry - LUCEO brand,
- ophthalmic industry - SGCC brand
- a Service business unit for the whole Tiama group.

Luc Boulant and Edouard Marienbach decided that MSC and SGCC should combine forces in the hollow glass container inspection field to provide even more effective solutions for the glass market: increased research and development capacity, greater reactivity, a more



comprehensive range of products and services as well as a more extensive network with 250 employees working together and contributing to the success of the Tiama group.

The Tiama group was created in 2003 for the leveraged buy out of MSC. Tiama acquired Edixia in 2006 and completed its second leveraged buy out in 2007. The employees have always owned a large proportion of the group's shares, as was the case for SGCC group 30% of whose capital is held by the management and employees. This commitment to the project is strongly encouraged by the management of both groups. The involvement of the personnel is one of the key factors in Tiama's success.

Edouard Marienbach, President of the Board, stated: *“What makes a successful company, its expansion, growth, quality of working life, are the human relationships. It is the people that count.”*

Luc Boulant, President of the Board of SGCC added: *“Innovation and service are the keystones for our development strategy. Combining the two groups provides the means to achieve our ambitions.”*

About LBO France

LBO France, a private equity company, has made over sixty acquisitions since it was created in 1985, with an average value per company of €10M. The more recent transactions include the acquisition of Materis, a leading building materials company in 2003 (resold in 2006), the acquisition of Actaris, a leading manufacturer of water, gas and electricity meters in 2005, the acquisition of Wheelabrator, leading international shot-blasting equipment manufacturer in 2005 and more recently Cegelec, leading electrical engineering company in 2006 and Consolis, leading European manufacturer of prestressed concrete in 2007.

LBO France has three funds for the acquisition of companies not quoted on the Stock Exchange: (i) the Hexagone fund for small company LBOs (companies valued at <€100M) using , (ii) the White Knight fund for larger company LBOs (companies valued at €100M to 2,000M) and (iii) the White Stone fund for property investment.