

Sofindev Management achieves strong first closing for its Sofindev IV Fund and realizes first transaction through investment in Fedrus Invest Groep

Brussels, 28 May 2015 – Sofindev, a leading Belgian private equity investor specialized in buyouts and growth capital for small and mid-sized companies in the Belgian market, is pleased to announce that it has secured aggregate commitments in excess of €60 million for its new independent fund, Sofindev IV.

Sofindev was created in 1991 by Sofina and Colruyt. Since then, Sofindev has invested more than €150 million in more than 40 SMEs in Belgium, through 3 funds, Sofindev I, II and III. The Sofindev III investors (Sofina, Colruyt, Korys, Imocobel and August Private Equity) continue to support the Sofindev team as they also have committed to invest in Sofindev IV.

The Sofindev team also welcomes a number of new highly reputable investors in its new fund, and is particularly pleased to announce the participation of entrepreneurs and family co-owners of Sofindev portfolio companies in Sofindev IV.

Sofindev IV is the first Sofindev fund which has been raised and will be independently managed by the Sofindev team (Sofindev Management). The first close puts Sofindev IV in a strong position to reach its €80 to 100 million target.

Consistent with the team's operating experience and the overall investment strategy for Sofindev III, the new fund will continue to focus on partnering with ambitious entrepreneurs and managers of small and mid-sized companies active in attractive market segments, as it has been doing since the founding of Sofindev III at the end of 2006. Sofindev III has made investments in 6 Belgian SMEs (Bockstael, Abelag, CassisPaprika, Novy, Vanerum and Syx Automations), of which the first two investments have been successfully divested.

Sofindev IV will invest between €5 million and €20 million per transaction in companies with sales ranging from €10 million to €200 million. Sofindev IV can take both majority and significant minority stakes.

Sofindev IV has already realized its first transaction. On May 28, 2015, Sofindev IV has closed the investment in Fedrus Invest Groep, in which it acquires a significant minority stake. Fedrus Invest Groep is Belgium's leading player in the wholesale of specialty building materials with a focus on EPDM and the distribution of roof building materials to the professional roofer via the APOK branded distribution network.

For more information about Sofindev, please visit our new website: <u>www.sofindev.be</u>.