

Sofindey and the Christiaens family enter into a partnership to strengthen the further growth of Christiaens NV.

June 30, 2020

In order to strengthen its growth, the Christiaens family has reached an agreement with Sofindey for an entry into the group's capital. The Christiaens family remains an important shareholder and Alexander and Olivier Christiaens, with the support of their father and founder Marc, remain responsible for the day-to-day management of Christiaens NV.



Christiaens NV, based in Passchendaale, Belgium, is a fast-growing full service IT services provider. With a team of c. 45 experienced and highly educated employees Christiaens implements ERP software from Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central and related software solutions. In addition, Christiaens provides IT infrastructure solutions, such as hardware, system and office software, backup, cloud, virtualization, network management, IT security and IT management for hundreds of small and medium-sized companies. Christiaens Computer Service was founded in 1982 by Marc Christiaens and, with the support of his sons Alexander and Olivier, who are in charge of the operational management, Christiaens has grown into a leading player in the Belgian IT services market.

'WE MAKE TECHNOLOGY WORK'

A wide range of IT solutions is now available to companies to support and strengthen their business processes. Today's successful entrepreneur, however, wants to focus more than ever on the core activities of his/her business. That is why he/she is increasingly relying on an IT specialist who can advise on the choice, realization and support of IT solutions. 'We make technology work' is a meaningful slogan at Christiaens. The challenge is not to sell IT infrastructure and business software, but to bring these components together into a successful solution. It takes a lot of expertise and Christiaens has it in-house.

Christiaens understands the problems of small and medium-sized companies better than anyone else. Since 1982, the company has assisted hundreds of companies in the choice, implementation and support of IT solutions with three basic principles that customers greatly value: 1) a pragmatic approach, 2) a full-service offering and 3) strong partnerships with market leaders. Christiaens believes in working with strong partners, whose products reflect the quality and continuity of the company. For example, Christiaens has long-term partnerships with Microsoft, HP, Veeam, VMWare, Companyweb and many others. Christiaens has won recognition in the Microsoft Partner Program as a Microsoft Gold Partner. This ensures that Christiaens has

the highest expertise in providing the required knowledge and skills in the field of business solutions. Thanks to this wide range of solutions, they support companies in their "digital transformation".

With the entry of Sofindey, the Christiaens family brings a strong financial and strategic partner on board. This will allow Christiaens to accelerate the solid growth of its business. This step will also help the expansion of the existing team and competencies, and facilitate strategic acquisitions as part of the growth areas.



Marc, Alexander and Olivier Christiaens, managing directors Christiaens

"Sofindey's entry into our capital is a well-considered decision, which is part of our ambition to further grow and develop Christiaens in a dynamic and consolidating market of business software and IT service providers. With Sofindey we bring in a complementary partner who shares the same values as our family business and has a mentality and vision for the future that fits perfectly with the current needs and ambitions of our company.

Christiaens has built up a strong and leading position as a provider of IT services based on the Microsoft Dynamics 365 suite and related software and IT infrastructure solutions. With Sofindey's input, we are armed to further strengthen our existing market position and expand our offer, while staying true to our values as a family business."

About Christiaens: www.christiaens.net

Jan Camerlynck and Jean-Roger de Bandt, Partners Sofinde

"Christiaens is a leading player in Belgium in the field of business software implementations, with a focus on Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central for small and medium-sized organizations in a wide range of sectors. This partnership fits perfectly into our strategy to support the growth of leading companies and thus create meaningful value in partnership with the family owners and managers."

The investment in Christiaens is the first investment of the recently established Sofinde V fund.

About Sofinde

Sofinde is a leading independent private equity firm, specialized in buyout and growth capital for small and mid-sized businesses in the Benelux region. Sofinde was founded in 1991 by Sofina and Colruyt, two prominent family-controlled publicly listed groups. Through the years, the Sofinde team has evolved towards full independence and has surrounded itself with a wider number of respected family and (international) institutional investors. Among these investors are entrepreneurs and family business owners in which Sofinde has invested in the past.

The Sofinde funds have made equity investments of more than 250 MEUR in about 50 SME's. Currently, the Sofinde Management team manages the Sofinde IV fund (°2015) with a committed capital of 107 MEUR and the recently raised Sofinde V fund (°December 2019), with total commitments of 170 MEUR. Similar to Sofinde IV, Sofinde V will invest in the equity of successful SME's in the Benelux, in partnership with the entrepreneurs and management teams of these companies, to support their further growth.

More details on our website: www.sofinde.com