

The Vanrobaeys group and Sofindex join forces and conclude partnership to support the further growth of Vanrobaeys

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Sofindex has reached an agreement with Peter and Jorgen Vanrobaeys about a partnership and entry in the capital of Vanrobaeys. Peter and Jorgen Vanrobaeys remain shareholders and continue the daily management of Vanrobaeys.

Through its partnership with Sofindex, Vanrobaeys prepares itself to continue its strong growth path of the previous years, as specialized timber wholesale group and service provider with a focus on decorative wood panels. The partnership aims to strengthen the position of Vanrobaeys in the Belgian market, with a further deepening and broadening of its product and service offering to its customer, the wood professional.



About Vanrobaeys

The Izegem, Belgium based family business was established by the Vanrobaeys family and was acquired by Jorgen and Peter Vanrobaeys, two cousins of the third generation, about 20 years ago. Under their leadership, Vanrobaeys became an established market player and at the same time one of the fastest growing companies in the Belgian sector of timber trade and processing of wood panels. This strong position is based on the successful combination of a high quality offering, with a strong focus on decorative wood panels, customer intimacy and a highly valued delivery reliability and speed, based on highly automated production and logistics. Vanrobaeys generated 37 million euro revenues in 2019 with a team of 60 employees.

Next to a number of own brands, Vanrobaeys offers a wide range of the highest quality wood and interior building materials, with a focus on decorative wood-based panels. The company also has its own production

department in which laminates are carefully glued onto wooden panels. An additional service offered to the wood professional is sawing, edging and drilling of all types of wood panels.

The strong focus on service, speed of delivery and reliability, next to the offering of additional added value have been instrumental to the success and growth of Vanrobaeys.

With the entry of Sofindev, the Vanrobaeys group attracts a strong financial and strategic partner to support the growth ambitions of the company. Efforts shall be made to broaden and deepen the product offering and to support the expansion of the current team and its competences. Strategic acquisitions of complementary businesses are also part of the growth strategy.



Peter and Jorgen Vanrobaeys, Managing Directors Vanrobaeys:

“We have known Sofindev's partners for a long time and have followed each other closely over the years. A partnership in which you open up the capital of your family business is not something you do with just anyone. Sofindev's entry into our capital is therefore a well-considered decision, which is part of our ambition to further grow and develop Vanrobaeys in a fragmented market of timber traders and suppliers of panel material in Belgium. With Sofindev we bring a complementary partner on board with whom we feel good and who has the same values and mentality as our company. We are convinced that together with them we can make Vanrobaeys an even stronger player. ”

Jan Camerlynck and Eric Van Droogenbroeck, Managing Partners SofindeV:

“Vanrobaeys is a leading player in the Belgian market of wood wholesale and in the trade and processing of decorative wood panels, a segment within the interior construction materials sector with promising growth potential. Together with Jorgen and Peter Vanrobaeys, we are partnering with two ambitious and successful entrepreneurs, who we will support by leveraging our experience, knowledge and network. By doing so, we want to create meaningful value for the customers, suppliers, employees and all other stakeholders of Vanrobaeys.”

The investment in Vanrobaeys is the second investment of the recently established SofindeV V fund, after its first investment in the IT services company Christiaens, in June 2020.

About SofindeV

SofindeV is a leading independent private equity firm, specialised in buyout and growth capital for small and mid-sized companies in the Benelux region. SofindeV was founded in 1991 by Sofina and Colruyt, two prominent family-controlled publicly listed groups. Throughout the years, SofindeV has evolved into a fully independent investment team and counts a wide number of respected families and (international) institutions in its investor pool. Among these investors are entrepreneurs and family business owners of companies in which SofindeV has invested in the past.

The SofindeV funds have made equity investments of more than 250 MEUR in about 50 SMEs. Currently, the SofindeV Management team manages the SofindeV IV fund (°2015) with committed capital of 107 MEUR and the recently raised SofindeV V fund (°December 2019), with total commitments of 170 MEUR. Just like SofindeV IV, SofindeV V realizes equity investments in successful Benelux-based SMEs, in partnership with the entrepreneurs and management teams of these companies, to support their further growth.

More details on our website: www.sofindeV.com.