

Press release
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Industrial refrigeration companies Arco and Vos Technics join forces

Arco, a leading Belgian specialist in industrial refrigeration installations, and sector peer Vos Technics are proud to announce a partnership. Vos Technics, known for its long-standing expertise in industrial cooling with natural gases, excels in designing and building technically complex cooling installations. Arco and Vos Technics will become sister companies, further strengthening their market position and increasing their capacity to deliver advanced, tailor-made refrigeration solutions to various industrial customers. Arco and Vos Technics will operate together under the Climate Pioneers banner; at group level, they have over 150 employees.



In late 2022, Sofindes, a reputable investment company, invested in Arco, one of the largest specialists in refrigeration technology in Belgium. Today, it is strengthening its position by investing in the family-owned Vos Technics, which will become a sister company of Arco.

Vos Technics: Focus on natural cooling since 2001

Vos Technics was founded in 1986 and is recognized in the industry as an innovative player pioneering the use of natural refrigerants such as ammonia, propane and CO₂ to replace traditional greenhouse gas-based cooling systems since 2001. With brothers Maarten and Kristof Onckelinx, the second generation is at the helm. Whereas the family business initially focused on designing, building and maintaining climate solutions mainly for the fruit sector, the brothers were able to translate their technical knowledge and skills into

installations for companies in all other sectors. Both in terms of project complexity and financial performance, they are among the best in the class. For example, they built the climate cabinets for CO₂-negative building blocks and the cooling installation for the European test centre of a car manufacturer. Vos Technics is now mainly active in the logistics, process and food industries.

Arco: specialist in industrial refrigeration and freezing equipment

Arco was founded in 1987 by Luc Van Raemdonck and specialises in the development, renovation, installation and maintenance of industrial refrigeration and freezing installations. Its customer portfolio includes companies active in the food industry and distribution, pharmaceutical, food retail and logistics services. At the end of 2022, investment company Sofindev partnered with Arco to further support its strong growth ambitions, while founder Luc Van Raemdonck retained an important minority position and managing director Sébastien Farinotti became a co-shareholder and took on responsibility for the general management. As a result, Arco's continuity was assured and it continues to position itself as a proactive partner that relieves customers and accompanies them from the design phase to delivery and maintenance, with practical and tailor-made solutions.

Arco has three offices in Belgium: its headquarters in Lokeren and locations in Geel and Charleroi. As sister companies, Arco and Vos Technics - which is based in Herk-De-Stad in the Limburg region - will together serve a large part of the Belgian market thanks to their complementary geographical coverage. Kristof and Maarten Onckelinx, respectively CEO and CTO of Vos Technics, along with Luc Van Raemdonck, Sébastien Farinotti and Sofindev, will become co-shareholders in the holding company above Arco and Vos Technics, called Climate Pioneers. At the same time, Kristof and Maarten Onckelinx remain responsible for the operational management of Vos Technics. As a result, both sister companies retain their own identity and operational autonomy, while benefiting from the strength of their cooperation within the group.

Match in innovative and sustainable DNA

By joining forces, the two sister companies together become one of the largest players in Belgium in the field of industrial refrigeration. **Maarten Onckelinx, CTO Vos Technics:** "This partnership arose out of respect for each other's work and the possible synergies. Arco is strong in a wide range of refrigeration technologies and has a strong geographical spread. Vos Technics, in turn, has more than 20 years of expertise in natural refrigerants and is at home in technically complex industrial installations."

Kristof Onckelinx, CEO Vos Technics, adds: "We each retain our independence and local character. Both our branch in Herk-de-Stad and Arco's 3 branches will continue to exist and the shares are divided according to a balanced structure, with Sofindev as a stable majority shareholder. By joining forces, we now employ more than 150 people at group level. The cooperation thus provides greater clout to take the next steps in our growth story."

Sébastien Farinotti and Luc Van Raemdonck, CEO and founder Arco, explain: "In Vos Technics, we have found a partner with whom we share the same DNA. Passion for refrigeration technology, quality, innovation and customer focus are central to them, as they are to us. The choice to join forces fits perfectly into the strategic plan to further strengthen the regional anchoring of our group."

More info

www.arconv.com

www.vostechnics.be