

FCDE and Bpifrance have sold their stakes in NES to the SERMA Group

// FCDE and Bpifrance have sold their stakes in NES in the context of the SERMA Group's acquisition of NES

// FCDE and Bpifrance are supporting this transaction and have invested in the SERMA Group

Paris, 26 November 2018

FCDE and Bpifrance announced the sale of their stakes in NES, in which they had been shareholders since 2016, to the SERMA Group on 20 September 2018. NES is an acknowledged player in cyber-security, whose offering covers the entire range of Information Systems security requirements. The SERMA Group is one of the leading independent French providers of expertise and advisory services in the fields of technology, electronic systems and information systems. With more than 1,000 engineers and technicians, the group operates at 12 sites in France and Germany and posts annual revenues of €100 million.

On this occasion, FCDE and Bpifrance have invested in the SERMA Group in support of the project. The acquisition of NES rounds out the current offering of SERMA Safety & Security ("S3") and positions it, with nearly 200 employees, as one of the leading French players in the field, expert in both information systems security and embedded system security. The complementarity of the two entities' fields of expertise and sectors of operation (notably finance/manufacturing) gives the company in its new dimension a unique coverage of offerings and sectors of activity.

In joining S3, NES also becomes a member of the wider SERMA Group and will benefit from its structure and solidity to accelerate its development and achieve its technical, international and recruiting ambitions.

Participants in the transaction:

- FCDE: Benoît Sellam, Réjean Guern, Jules Bosser and Minorie Nollet
- Bpifrance: François Picarle and Romain Fourcade

Advisers to the Vendors

- Legal counsel: LL Berg (Olivier Abergel, Gaëlle Quillivic and Julien Carrascosa)
- Financial advisers: Exelmans (Eric Guedj and Grégoire Thiébaut)

Advisers to the Acquirer

- Financial advisers: Ernst & Young (Emmanuel Picard, Chloé Launois and Maxime Prat)
- Legal and tax advisers: Apollo Avocats (Florence Savouré, Delphine Dillemann, Laura Smyrliadis and Victoire Blanc)
- Labour law advisers: Lamartine (Charlotte Moreau and Justine Billard)
- Strategic advisers: CMI (Nicolas Kandel and Bastien Hontebeyrie)

About FCDE

Through its contribution in human and financial resources, FCDE (*Fonds de Consolidation et de Développement des Entreprises*) supports the transformation and development of high-potential businesses. With €400 million in assets, it brings together the main financial institutions operating in France (Bpifrance, banks and insurance undertakings). FCDE is managed by Consolidation & Développement Gestion, an independent asset management company approved by the AMF (French Financial Markets Authority).

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About Bpifrance

Bpifrance's equity investments are handled by Bpifrance Investissement. Bpifrance finances businesses – at each stage of their development – through loans, guarantees and equity investments. Bpifrance supports them in their innovation projects and internationally. Bpifrance now also insures their export activity through a wide range of products. Consulting, training, networking and an accelerator programme for start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps also form part of the offering presented to entrepreneurs. Thanks to Bpifrance and its 48 regional offices, entrepreneurs have the advantage of a single, effective partner close at hand to support them in rising to their challenges.

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