

## FCDE divests the controlling interest in UTAC CERAM to Eurazeo

**// Less than 3 years after its takeover, FCDE divests the controlling interest in the UTAC CERAM group to Eurazeo, while remaining the second shareholder of the group.**

*Paris, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

FCDE announced today the closing of the sale of the majority stake of UTAC CERAM to Eurazeo PME, investing around €80m alongside the current shareholders (FCDE, CCFA (representing the French car manufacturers), the management team and the key managers of the group). The shared ambition of FCDE, Eurazeo PME and the management team led by CEO Laurent Benoit is to step up UTAC CERAM's growth in Europe and worldwide, while helping the group expand into new business areas and geographies.

Eurazeo will bring its financial resources and all its expertise (international network, experience in the integration of acquired innovative companies, digitisation, CSR, etc.) to support the management team in the acceleration of UTAC CERAM's transformation plan, which was launched when FCDE acquired its majority stake in 2018. UTAC CERAM will thus be able to pursue expansion both within and outside France and equip itself with new resources in order to meet the major current and future challenges facing the automotive sector. Worldwide, the automotive industry is experiencing radical technological and social changes. It needs innovative, creative and solid players to support the transformations already under way for parts manufacturers and car makers. The group's future development will be aided in particular by the continuation of a robust innovation strategy and the consolidation of markets in Europe and around the world, leveraging the strength of the brand as well as the recognised expertise and know-how of the group's teams. More specifically, Eurazeo PME's entry into the capital of UTAC CERAM will allow it to increase its market shares in Europe in the area of type approval, testing, inspection and certification but also to integrate new digital capabilities (cybersecurity, digital simulation, connectivity, data management, benchmarking).

UTAC CERAM is the partner of choice for the world's automotive and mobility industry players, thanks to its vast array of expertise and business lines: development and validation testing for environmental factors, type approval and regulatory compliance, training, consulting, audit and certification, technical controls, normative testing, and the organisation of events.

UTAC CERAM operates the only official Euro NCAP testing facility in France. The group has 580 employees across its various locations, including its Linas-Montlhéry and Mortefontaine testing centres in the Paris region, but also around the world, with subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, China and Japan. In June 2019, the group celebrated the opening of Teqmo, its new testing centre dedicated to connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs), at its historic site in Linas-Montlhéry. Teqmo is the showcase for the group's new business lines and expertise in the areas of cybersecurity, connectivity, simulation and electrification. In summer 2021, UTAC CERAM will open the very first automotive testing centre on the African continent, in Oued Zem, Morocco. In 2019, UTAC CERAM generated revenue of €83 million, 11% of which was reinvested, as it is the case every year.

**Laurent Benoit, CEO of UTAC CERAM, declared:** "We are convinced that this next phase will be instrumental in ramping up our group's growth and expansion for the years to come. Since 2018, the firm has enjoyed the strong support of FCDE, throughout our rapid growth phase. I am delighted by the arrival of Eurazeo PME, which will be drawing on all its resources and its recognised expertise to give a boost to our expansion in France and around the world".

**Julien Di Marco, Partner and Member of the Board of FCDE, said:** "We are especially pleased to have accompanied UTAC CERAM when it decided to spin out in 2018. The implementation of an ambitious transformation plan, including a capex plan and a massive recruitment campaign, the addition of new members to the management team, together with adjustments to the culture and the organization, helped accelerate the

group's growth and make it more competitive. Eurazeo PME's entry into UTAC CERAM's capital will allow it to accelerate its international expansion through acquisitions in its sector, while also developing its digital capabilities."

**Pierre Meignen, Eurazeo PME Board Member:** "We are pleased to stand by UTAC CERAM in this new chapter of its history and to provide the group with the resources needed to facilitate its expansion plans. Our aim is to support Laurent Benoit's team in the execution of an ambitious growth strategy that seeks to position the group not only as the world's leading automotive type approval and technical testing provider, but also as a major player in the energy transition and in the development of tomorrow's mobility solutions."

#### **About UTAC CERAM**

A private, independent group, UTAC CERAM is the partner of choice for the world's automotive and mobility industry players in development and validation testing for environmental factors, type approval and regulatory compliance, training, consulting, audit and certification, technical controls, normative testing, and the organisation of events. UTAC CERAM operates the only official Euro NCAP testing facility in France. The group also enjoys a unique position in Europe thanks to its ISO 17025 accredited testing laboratories. The group has 580 employees across its various locations, including its Linas-Montlhéry and Mortefontaine testing centres in the Paris region, but also around the world, with subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, China and Japan. In 2019, UTAC CERAM generated revenue of €83 million, 11% of which was reinvested, as it is the case every year.

[www.utacceram.com](http://www.utacceram.com)

#### **About FCDE**

Through its contribution in terms of human and financial resources, FCDE (Fonds de Consolidation et de Développement des Entreprises) supports the development and transformation of French SMEs and mid-cap companies with high growth potential. It brings together the main financial institutions operating in France (Bpifrance, banks, insurance companies). FCDE is managed by Consolidation & Development Gestion (CDG), an independent management company authorised by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), the French securities regulator.

[www.fonds-fcde.fr](http://www.fonds-fcde.fr)

#### **Participants in the transaction for the sellers**

- **FCDE:** Julien Di Marco, Anne-Laure Dupont, Thibaut David, Clémence Dhombres
- **CCFA:** Thierry Cognet, Gaël Bouquet
- **Management:** Laurent Benoit, Christophe Perge, Cécile Rousset, Jérôme Paschal
- **M&A advisor of the sellers - Wil Consulting:** Jacques Ittah, André Haik
- **Financial Vendor Due Diligence - Oderis:** Aurélien Vion, Nicolas Boucher
- **Strategic Vendor Due Diligence - Accenture:** Sébastien Amichi, Romain Le Guen
- **Strategic support:** Laurent Midrier
- **Lawyers of UTAC CERAM and FCDE II - Ayache Salama:** Sandrine Benaroya, Louise Abbou
- **Lawyers of CCFA - Vivien & Associés:** Emmanuel Chauvet, Lisa Becker
- **Lawyers of the Management - Mayer Brown:** Laurent Borey, Pauline Barbier, Myriam Khetib-Khatiri
- **Financial Advisor of the Management - Natixis Wealth Management:** Frédéric Balochard, Benjamin Lobel, Florian Pascaud

**Press contacts**

**FCDE**

FTI Consulting Strategic  
Communications  
Sophie Van Elven  
Tel: + 33 (0)1 47 03 68 10  
fcde@fticonsulting.com

**UTAC CERAM**

Peter & Associés  
Isabel Lebon – Patricia Jeannette  
Tel: + 33 (0)1 42 59 73 40  
ilebon@peter.fr  
pjeannette@peter.fr