



PRESS RELEASE

Nanterre, 17 January 2005

**Elyo (SUEZ) signs a utilities delegation contract
worth 90 million euros with BERGERAC NC**

Elyo, a subsidiary of SUEZ Group, signed a utilities delegation contract with BERGERAC NC, a subsidiary of SNPE GROUP, worth 90 million euros in turnover for a 13-year period.

BERGERAC NC has been Elyo's partner for several years and entrusted the operation and production of the following utilities to Elyo Midi Océan Regional Division:

- steam, essential to the manufacturing process,
- compressed air used by safety equipment and facilities,
- various types of industrial water (raw, filtered and flocculated water) required by the process.

Elyo will finance and perform the restoration of 5 MW-power cogeneration facilities.

Elyo, by this contract, shows its utilities delegation know-how and strengthens its leading position in industrial energy services.

As Lionel Brunet, General Manager of BERGERAC NC, attests:

"We were used to managing our own utilities production facilities in our original Defence chemistry trade. Since then, and in order to improve its competitiveness, BERGERAC NC has chosen to concentrate on its nitrocellulose industrialist trade. This delegation contract with Elyo, whose teams have proven their skills to us, is part of this approach."

BERGERAC NC, a subsidiary of SNPE GROUP, achieves an annual turnover of 130 M€ and employs 1,000 people throughout the world. BERGERAC NC is world leader in the production and marketing of industrial nitrocellulose. Most of this nitrocellulose is aimed at being used in everyday applications such as paint, varnish, food packaging ink and nail polish.

BERGERAC NC also produces a nitro compound intermediary: ethyl hexyl nitrate (EHN), a gas-oil additive intended to improve fuel combustion and limit its polluting effects.

Elyo is an international group and subsidiary of SUEZ Group that designs and operates long-term energy services with guaranteed results. Elyo develops on-site optimised and environmentally-friendly solutions for its corporate, local community or tertiary and residential site management clients. Elyo reached a turnover of 3.2 billion euros in 2003 and employs 18,100 people.

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