



FABRICOM GTI

Press Release

Date 22/09/2004

Subject **Fabricom GTI bolsters its presence in the Charleroi region**

Fabricom GTI signs a draft agreement with CCD (Charleroi Construction & Découpe) and lands a maintenance contract for the new Carinox steelworks for the Arcelor Group.

Several months ago, Fabricom GTI decided to optimise its activities in the Charleroi region. In addition to its mechanical engineering business already present at Châtelineau, the site currently handles piping (previously located at Boussu) and Fabricom GTI's electricity and instrumentation businesses (formerly located at Manage), following a similar move in the Liège region. Fabricom GTI employs almost 400 people at the Châtelineau site in the Charleroi region south of Brussels and generates an annual turnover of approximately €35 million.

As part of its strategy to shore up its activities in the region, Fabricom GTI recently concluded a draft agreement with CCD, the aim being for the two companies to harmonise their activities and develop synergies in their businesses. CCD employs 80 people and generates a turnover of some €8 million. A definitive agreement is due to be signed by the end of 2004.

First and foremost, the agreement will enable Fabricom GTI and CCD to build on each other's complementary commercial and technical expertise to strengthen their respective positions in the field of maintenance and industrial services in the industrial regions surrounding Charleroi and Liège.

As part of its project to construct a new Carinox electrical steelworks at Châtelineau (a €230-million investment), Arcelor has also awarded Fabricom GTI a multi-business maintenance contract (electricity and mechanical engineering). The plant is currently under construction and when completed will have a generation capacity of 1 million tonnes a year. It is due to be commissioned in September 2005.

Fabricom GTI's contract will run until at least 2010; it will be performed by Fabricom GTI's regional division Industry Sud, keeping several dozen employees active on a full-time basis. Fabricom GTI's local groups are already involved in construction and commissioning of the iron-and-steel site since they are drawing up the maintenance programme.

This ambitious contract worth several million euros and full of performance and progress clauses is part of a longstanding partnership between Fabricom and Arcelor, mainly in France and Belgium.

Via high-performance technical resources, Fabricom GTI's innovative solutions and know-how will enable Carinox to manage future maintenance costs – the key to its new steelworks operating efficiently and competitively.

The contract also demonstrates the strength of existing synergies within the Fabricom Group since it calls upon the experience gained by its French subsidiary Endel within Arcelor. Tractebel Engineering, another entity in the Suez Group, is also involved in the project.



FABRICOM GTI

Date 22/09/2004

Fabricom GTI is the Belgian reference in innovative technical installations and services for the industrial and infrastructure markets. Our expertise covers different technical aspects, such as Electrical, Mechanical, Piping, Automation, Maintenance and Specialised Services. Thanks to our proximity network in Belgium and subsidiaries in Europe, we are able to offer our clients customised solutions, including for multi-technical and multi-site projects. Furthermore, we are highly experienced in international major project management. Fabricom GTI employs more than 8,000 people and has booked a turnover amounting to 962 MEUR in 2003. Together with Axima, Endel (France), GTI (The Netherlands) and Ineo France), Fabricom GTI is part of Fabricom, a subsidiary of Suez-Tractebel.

FABRICOM is the European leader in electrical, mechanical and HVAC installations along with related maintenance. The companies of the Group (AXIMA, ENDEL, FABRICOM GTI, GTI and INEO) are present on the numerous sites of the clients (industrial, infrastructure, buildings and services sector) where they provide the technical services that fit their specific needs. FABRICOM employs 50 000 people; in 2002, the Group has booked revenues amounting to 5.5 bln euro, mainly in the Benelux area and in France, but also in numerous other European countries. FABRICOM is fully owned by SUEZ.

For further information please contact :

Emmanuelle Adam
Fabricom GTI
Communications Department Manager
Tel.: +32 2 370 32 64
Fax: +32 2 370 32 11
emmanuelle.adam@fabricom-gti.com
www.fabricom-gti.com