

PRESS RELEASE

Gantner and Syx Automations to merge in a move designed to extend international footprint as a full-range supplier offering comprehensive software and hardware expertise

Diegem, 20 June 2017 – SOFINDEV III announced today that it has sold its shareholding in Syx Automations Group (“Syx Automations”) to GANTNER Electronic Austria Holding GmbH (“Gantner”), a high-tech company specializing in electronic access control and staff time recording systems. Syx Automations of Ypres, Belgium, is the Benelux market leader in the field of ticketing and leisure facility management solutions. The merger of the two companies will create a globally operating full-range supplier of comprehensive software and hardware expertise for electronic access control, billing, and management systems for use in the sports and leisure sector. The deal was completed on June 16th, 2017, and was facilitated with the support of Ardian, a leading independent investment company that has been a majority shareholder at Gantner since February 2016. Since November 2013, Syx Automations Group was owned by the Sofindev III fund and the company’s own management. Under the leadership of CEO Dirk Syx, current management will remain at the helm while also taking a minority stake in the new group. Prior to the transaction with Gantner, Syx Graphics, part of the Syx Automations Group, was sold to co-founder and general manager of Syx Graphics, Niels Syx. Syx Graphics is one of the fastest growing producers of plastic cards and a supplier of card technologies and services in the Benelux. The parties agreed not to disclose any further details of the transaction.

Founded in Schruns, Austria in 1982, Gantner is one of Europe’s leading suppliers of systems that use RFID (radio frequency identification) and NFC (near field communication) technology to facilitate automatic contactless identification. Gantner systems encompass integrated solutions for membership and visitor management, for cashless payments, and for controlled access (doors, cabinets, lockers), and staff time recording in the field of in-company organization and security. With subsidiaries in Germany, the UK, Dubai, Australia, and the USA, Gantner employs a workforce of more than 200 in some 70 countries worldwide.

Syx Automations, a company boasting more than 30 years of industry experience, is the market leader for integrated ticketing and leisure management software solutions in the Benelux region. The company focuses on complete one-stop solutions based on its own software platform ReCreateX® that are used in

leisure and sports facilities and cultural institutions of the most diverse kind. All solutions comprise a full package inclusive of IT infrastructure, hosting, access control, and facility management systems. Syx Automations provides customers with end-to-end support throughout the entire process, from design, project management, and implementation of the solutions through to service and maintenance. More than 50 million visitors to sports and leisure facilities in Benelux and the UK are currently managed each year using Syx Automations systems.

The strategic and transformational merger of Gantner and Syx Automations creates a globally operating integrated provider of comprehensive access, billing, and management systems for sport facilities, leisure centers, and visitor attractions. The tie-up will enable both companies to tap wide-ranging synergies and potential for further international growth. Customers will be offered holistic solutions consisting of a wide range of solutions integrated into a uniform software management system. In fiscal 2017, the two companies are expecting aggregate sales revenues of some €50m.

Elmar Hartmann, managing director of Gantner, said: “The acquisition of Syx Automations marks a major milestone in our strategy and a big step forward in our continued expansion and internationalization. Going forward, we shall be able to offer our customers an even more comprehensive product portfolio encompassing precisely matched hardware and software available from a single supplier. Additionally, our respective product ranges and markets are an excellent fit. With our now enlarged capabilities and international footprint, we shall be seeking to continue along our growth path both by extending existing customer relationships and through new customer acquisitions. We look forward to working together with Dirk Syx and his skilled and highly motivated team.”

Dirk Syx, CEO of Syx Automations, added: “In recent years, we have put a lot of energy into strengthening our company and our structures in order to reach the next stage in our international growth plan. Gantner and Ardian have the ideal profile and experience required to support us in this endeavor. The combination of market-leading software and hardware expertise will enable us to build an international market leader for hardware and software solutions covering the full range of access control, billing, and management systems in the sports and leisure market.”

ABOUT GANTNER

Founded in Schruns, Austria in 1982, the company is widely considered to be a pioneer in contactless electronic access management and time recording systems in its core segments. Gantner offers its customers solutions based on RFID and NFC technology for use in gyms, public pools and spas, theme parks, universities and libraries, and in commercial properties and public buildings. The solutions include access systems, electronic locking and locker systems, cashless payment, cash register and billing systems, and staff time recording systems. Gantner operates in some 70 countries worldwide and has subsidiaries in Germany, the UK, Dubai, Australia, and the USA. The company has a worldwide workforce of 200. Elmar Hartmann has been managing director since 2003.

www.gantner.com

ABOUT SYX AUTOMATIONS

Syx Automations offers software and automation solutions to its customers in the leisure industry. Boasting more than 30 years of experience in its market, the company has a workforce in excess of 120 and subsidiaries in Ypres (Belgium), Houten (Netherlands), London (UK), and Ahmedabad (India). It focuses on the development of complete solutions running on its own software platform ReCreateX® that are used in both sports and leisure facilities and cultural institutions of the most diverse kind. Solutions encompass a full range of services, inclusive of IT infrastructure, hosting, access control and facility management systems.

All software is developed in-house. Syx Automations provides customers with end-to-end support throughout the entire process, from design, project management, and installation of devices through to service and maintenance.

www.syxautomations.com

ABOUT SOFINDEV

Sofindev, founded in 1991 by Sofina and Colruyt, is a Belgian independent private investment company which invests in small and medium sized enterprises via multiple private equity funds. The Sofindev funds are managed by Sofindev Management, which is majority- owned by its partners. Syx Automations Group was an investment of Sofindev III, a 50 MEUR fund established at the end of 2006, which realized six investments. After the sale of Syx Automations, Sofindev III still has two companies in its portfolio: Cassis Paprika and i3 Group. In May 2015, Sofindev Management raised a new fund, Sofindev IV, with committed capital of 107 MEUR. Since May 2015, four investments were realized by Sofindev IV: Fedrus International, Geodynamics, Novy and House of Talents.

www.sofindev.be

ABOUT ARDIAN

Ardian, founded in 1996 and led by Dominique Senequier, is an independent private investment company with assets of US\$62bn managed or advised in Europe, North America and Asia. The company, which is majority- owned by its employees, keeps entrepreneurship at its heart and delivers investment performance to its global investors while fuelling growth in economies across the world. Ardian's investment process embodies three values: excellence, loyalty and entrepreneurship. Ardian maintains a global network, with more than 450 employees working through twelve offices in Paris, London, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, Zurich, New York, San Francisco, Beijing, Singapore, Jersey, Luxembourg. The company offers its 580 investors a diversified choice of funds covering the full range of asset classes, including Ardian Funds of Funds (primary, early secondary and secondary), Ardian Private Debt, Ardian Buyout (including Ardian Mid Cap Buyout Europe & North America, Ardian Expansion, Ardian Growth and Ardian Co-Investment), Ardian Infrastructure, Ardian Real Estate and Ardian Mandates.

www.ardian.com