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Sofindev reaches an agreement with the Claes family to become shareholder of Group Claes.

The equity investment in Group Claes will be realized by Sofindev via its Sofindev IV fund, whereby Sofindev will become the majority shareholder. The Claes family and the company's management will remain on board as significant minority shareholders. Group Claes is the holding company for the operational activities performed by the separate legal entities Claes Distribution and Claes Machines.



- Claes Distribution is a wholesaler of supplies for the food processing and food retail industry. The company offers a full range of high quality products like herbs, spices, additives, sauces, marinades, casings, packaging materials, maintenance products, canned and/or seasonal food, as well as shop interior and kitchen supplies. The company operates from its distribution center located in Paal and assures nationwide on-time deliveries thanks to its in-house managed logistics. The company also serves clients in the surrounding countries, i.e. the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France.



- Claes Machines distributes high-quality machines for the food processing and food retail industry which are used for the processing and packaging of fresh meat products, food stuffing, and ready-to-eat meals. The company also has an in-house team offering technical services for the installation, maintenance and repair of the machines.

Group Claes partners with Sofindev to support its continued growth trajectory as specialized wholesaler and service provider to the food processing industry. Its product and service range will be extended and improved through targeted acquisitions of complementary businesses. The company realized a group turnover of c. €58 million in 2017 with the support of their staff of 124 employees.

The current shareholders of Group Claes, i.e. the Claes brothers, were looking for a partner to ensure the continuity of management to support future growth. Ronny Claes, CEO of Group Claes, Peter Claes and Marc Van Baelen, remain on board as shareholders and continue their operational responsibilities as management of the group.

Sofindev is an independent Belgian private investment company which invests since more than 25 years in small and medium sized enterprises to support growth and further professionalization. In 2015, a new Sofindev fund, Sofindev IV, was established, which to date has realized investments in Fedrus International (roof & façade building materials), Geodynamics (geolocation and time recording software for mobile workers), Novy (cooker hoods) and House of Talents (niche HR services). The investment in Group Claes will be the fifth participation of Sofindev IV.

Van Havermaet advised the Claes family, while KPMG and Argo Law supported Sofindev.