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The Alkor Group rewards ALTKIN and BIC in its first CSR Awards

The Alkor Group, an independent cooperative specialising in office, school and childcare supplies, has announced the winners of its first CSR Awards. BIC and ALTKIN were singled out in their respective categories - 'Education & Leisure' for BIC and 'Office Equipment' for ALTKIN - for their commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). This initiative, in line with the cooperative's values, aims to encourage and promote the sustainable and responsible approaches of Alkor's suppliers.

A successful first edition

Launched for the first time in 2024, the Alkor Group's CSR Trophies aim to assess and reward their most committed CSR suppliers. The selection process is based on rigorous criteria, including an Ecovadis score of over 50. Among the participants, BIC and ALTKIN particularly shone in their respective categories, 'Education & Leisure' for BIC and 'Office Automation' for ALTKIN.

'We are honoured to receive this award, which demonstrates our ongoing commitment to sustainability. Our cartridge remanufacturing activity - which reduces the environmental footprint by 40% compared to new cartridges - reflects our deep reflection on the preservation of resources. This approach is recognised by our Ecovadis gold medal and numerous certifications and labels, including ISO 14001, SGS Qualicert, NF, Nordic Ecolabel, WEElabex and RFAR (Responsible Purchasing and Supplier Relations),' says Gerwald van der Gijp, Managing Director of ALTKIN.

'We are very proud of this award from Alkor, which illustrates our ongoing commitment to sustainable development. At BIC, we offer a wide range of writing and colouring products made in our French factories, always guaranteeing high quality at the right price. Almost 80% of our products sold in France are made in France! We are also committed to offering sustainable, refillable and environmentally-friendly products containing recycled materials. Finally, since 2011 we have also been involved in collecting and recycling used writing products in partnership with Terracycle and PLAS ECO. This circular economy approach reduces waste and gives a second life to our products,' says Henri Nicolau, Managing Director France & Benelux at BIC.

The future of the Alkor Group CSR Awards

Buoyed by the success of this first edition, the Alkor Group will be launching a new edition, in order to continue to promote the CSR commitment of its suppliers. 'These first awards mark the start of a long-term approach. We are going to add new categories and levels of distinction to them, in order to reward more initiatives in favour of CSR,' explains Grégory Feller, Head of Communications and Trade Marketing at the Alkor Group.

A CSR approach at the heart of the Alkor Group's values

Since it was founded in 1958, the Alkor Group - which includes major brands such as Majuscules, Burolike and IOBURO - has been committed to a socially responsible approach, recognised by the RFAR and RSE Engagé labels.

By rewarding its most virtuous suppliers, the cooperative hopes not only to recognise the efforts they have made, but also to encourage its entire value chain to adopt more sustainable practices. 'We firmly believe that CSR is essential, not only to meet the expectations of our B2B and B2C customers, but also to make a positive contribution to our industry,' adds Grégory Feller. This initiative marks a strategic turning point for the Alkor Group, which intends to repeat and amplify its CSR impact in the years to come.

Press contact ALTKIN: Gratiane Sametin (Hodos) – g.sametin@hodos.paris – + 337 85 92 60 78

About Alkor Groupe

Founded in 1958, Alkor Groupe is a cooperative and a recognised specialist in the stationery, office and school supplies sector. Alkor Groupe generates sales of €440m and employs 1,850 skilled staff, with a distribution network covering the whole of France under the Majuscule, Burolike and Ioburo brands. Alkor Groupe's 157 cooperative members benefit from a high-performance logistics platform, as well as over 18,700 products in stock and two storage warehouses totalling 42,000 m². The cooperative model is highly democratic: 1 member/1 vote.

About Altkin (www.altkin-group.com)

ALTKIN, the European leader in remanufactured printing solutions, offers flexible, alternative solutions and extensive services for all printing needs. Its expertise and businesses are structured around four pillars: Products, Care, Tech and Tailored. Its customers are distributors and reseller partners, manufacturers, and corporates. ALTKIN invests in R&D as well as in its industrial equipment to guarantee, certify and prove the performance of its printing solutions. ALTKIN has a turnover of €90M in 2023 and employs more than 700 people. ALTKIN is an ARMOR GROUP company, a responsible and committed player promoting social innovation. The group is world leader in the design and manufacture of thermal transfer ribbons for printing variable traceability data on labels and flexible packaging. With a worldwide presence, ARMOR GROUP employs nearly 2,450 people in some twenty countries on four continents. The group's turn-over was €435m in 2023 (proforma including THS acquisition).



Photo credit: Alkor

Photo left: Frank Deshayes, Managing Director of the Alkor Group and Gerwald van der Gijp, Managing Director of ALTKIN

Photo right: Frank Deshayes, Managing Director of the Alkor Group and Henri Nicolau, Managing Director France & Benelux at BIC.