

Press release – Wednesday 22nd January 2025

In 2025, the industrialist ARMOR GROUP continues to conquer new markets

With its solid fundamentals of innovation and cutting-edge industrial expertise, and despite a sluggish economic environment, in 2025 ARMOR GROUP will continue to conquer new markets, both in Europe and on other continents. To achieve this, the Group is relying on a number of strategic recruitments, multiple industrial investments and a long-term alliance dynamic. The Group is aiming for sales of €500m by 2026.

Strengthening local presence

A world leader in the manufacture of thermal transfer ribbons for variable data printing on labels and packaging, ARMOR-IIMAK opened a second South African plant in Cape Town in 2024. In addition, this ARMOR-GROUP subsidiary now benefits from a local stock of finished products and a logistics service in Mumbai, India. And 2025 is set to be no exception, as the company plans to invest in new cutting facilities and open a sales subsidiary in Dubai, with the aim of providing local support to all customers located on the Arabian Peninsula. ARMOR-IIMAK, which is forecasting sales of €360m in 2024, an increase of almost 3% compared with 2023, is thus continuing its drive for international expansion, working as closely as possible with local customers.

ARMOR BATTERY FILMS, which manufactures components for lithium-ion batteries, inaugurated a brand new industrial site near Nantes in 2024 and has just recruited Lucas Marks as Sales Director for the North American market. The company is thus strengthening the seniority of its local sales team, proof of the growing importance of this geographical area for the ARMOR GROUP subsidiary, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Finally, ARMOR SMART FILMS, a fledgling company specialising in functional and interactive surfaces, can count on the recent arrival of Fabien Resweber as Business Development Manager.

'The conquest of new markets has always been essential to our growth. I'm convinced that a local presence, as close as possible to our customers and partners, plays a major role in building lasting relationships. ARMOR GROUP and its subsidiaries have technological strengths that we have collectively decided to leverage through increased international expansion,' says Hubert de Boisredon, Chairman and CEO of ARMOR GROUP.

Under the banner of industrial investment and innovation

After seeing ARMOR SMART FILMS install a new flat screen printing facility at the end of 2024, representing an investment of more than €800k, ARMOR-IIMAK's Amherst (NY) site in North America will see a number of investments take shape in 2025. These involve the ink manufacturing and coating processes, as well as a new robotised cutting cell. 'We are particularly proud of the progress we have made since acquiring IIMAK in 2021. ARMOR-IIMAK is a united, fully integrated and strong team. Having weathered the crisis of recent years well, we are more than ready to respond to the revolution of the GS1 augmented QR code, the new generation barcode, for which thermal transfer is the best printing option,' says Christian Lefort, Managing Director of ARMOR-IIMAK.

Consolidating the alliance strategy

In 2024, ARMOR GROUP will have some thirty industrial, logistics and sales sites around the world, employ 2,500 people (including almost 850 in France) and generate sales of around €447m. This size is the result, among other things, of a sustained external growth strategy. The latest significant acquisition, that of THS by ALTKIN in Germany, boosted the sales of this ARMOR GROUP subsidiary dedicated to sustainable printing by 30%. And the momentum will continue into 2025, as ALTKIN plans to acquire strategic companies in the printing and refurbishing market.



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In addition, after acquiring significant minority stakes in promising start-ups such as HoloSolis and ExoCell, ARMOR GROUP is studying a number of investment opportunities as part of its ARMOR GROUP Open Industry programme, in the fields of energy transition and resource conservation.

'In 2023-2024, we have divested unprofitable activities and at the same time refocused on those in which we firmly believe. Industry is a powerful lever for progress and social transformation. At ARMOR GROUP, we aspire to be one of the European spearheads of a dynamic and committed sector that strives to make a positive social, environmental and economic contribution. It is within this framework that our Group is positioning itself as a strong link in an industry that places innovation and cooperation at the heart of its model. Our goal is to achieve sales of €500m by 2026,' concludes Hubert de Boisredon.

About ARMOR GROUP

ARMOR GROUP is a Mid-Cap company, committed to serving a dynamic industry, focused on the challenges of the future. This industrial group puts its expertise at the service of innovation and the production of essential components, in order to generate a positive social, environmental and economic contribution. ARMOR GROUP is 100% owned by the management team and 450 employees-shareholders. It is established worldwide and totals around 2,500 employees spread over some twenty countries across four continents. The Group recorded revenue of €436M in 2023 (proforma including THS acquisition). It invests €50M every year in industrial equipment and R&D. The Group is global leader in designing and producing thermal transfer ribbons for printing variable traceability data on labels and flexible packaging (ARMOR-IIMAK). ARMOR GROUP, a front-line European player for innovative, sustainable consumables and inks as well as print services (ALTKIN), is also a pioneer in developing and producing state- of-the-art materials like coated collectors for electric batteries (ARMOR GROUP Open Industry programme, which aims to develop a positive industrial ecosystem for the French economy and the environment by investing in and supporting high-impact technology start-ups. <u>www.armor-group.com</u>