

Press release

For immediate release



Brussels, 14 July 2011

Etex Group has entered into exclusive negotiations with Lafarge in relation to the acquisition of its European plasterboard division.

The plasterboard division of Lafarge is one of the three leading plasterboard manufacturers in Europe. It employs around 3,300 employees and operates 14 state-of-the-art plasterboard factories. It has a leading position in the biggest European markets and a presence in all major European countries. The activities would be combined with the South-American plasterboard activities of Etex Group and Lafarge in a new entity, in which Etex Group would have 80% and Lafarge 20%. The new entity would have a turnover of around 1bn euro.

The acquisition would allow Etex Group to become a major player in dry construction. The new requirements in terms of energy efficient housing make this business one of the most promising segments of the building materials. Etex Group would realise substantial synergies with its existing business of building boards, which already represents a substantial part of its sales. Dry construction clearly becomes one of the major strategic axes of Etex Group which through the new entity shall have a number one position for plasterboard in South America and a top three position in Europe.

Fons Peeters, CEO of Etex Group, commented:

“The acquisition of the plasterboard division would be a major strategic step for Etex Group and position our group at the forefront of dry construction. The combination of our activities would create a leading player in the plasterboard market. The synergies with Etex’ existing board business will substantially enhance future growth. We hope we can soon welcome the employees of the Lafarge European gypsum division into our group and look forward to working with them.”

Contact at Etex Group:

M. Karel De Wilde

Company Secretary & Legal Counsel

Tel: +32 2 778 13 13 – Fax: +32 2 778 13 45

communication@etexgroup.com

About Etex Group

Etex Group is an industrial group that produces and markets high-quality building materials and systems. With headquarters in Belgium, the Group holds more than 90 subsidiaries across 40 countries and employs more than 13,500 people.

More information on Etex Group is available on the company’s website www.etexgroup.com