



## Deleplanque and SUET announce the acquisition of the German seed company Strube

April 4, 2018

Maisons-Laffitte (France), Eschwege (Germany)

The companies Deleplanque & Cie and SUET Saat- und Erntetechnik GmbH have acquired the entire corporate group of the German family company Strube at 60% (Deleplanque) and 40% (SUET) respectively. The purchase agreement was signed on March 23 in Berlin and came into effect on April 3, 2018.

Strube is internationally recognised for its expertise in the field of plant breeding and the processing of sugar beet, wheat, sunflower and vegetable seeds (vining pea and sweetcorn). With its 15 branches and the local trading partners, Strube currently markets more than 250 varieties in 35 countries. Consolidated sales in 2017 amounted to 113 million euros. The company employs 350 people.

Deleplanque, SUET and Strube have been working together closely for several decades and complement each other in their activities. Deleplanque multiplies many of the sugar beet varieties developed by Strube. SUET is responsible for treatment and pelleting, incrustation and packaging of the sugar beet seeds as well as the shipping logistics. Deleplanque is the exclusive distributor of Strube's sugar beet varieties on the French market and oversees Strube's field trials in France and Belgium.

Eric Verjux, CEO of Deleplanque, explains: *"We aspire to become one of the leading seed companies in Europe. Against this background, the acquisition of the Strube Group is an important step for us. This puts the entire value chain in one hand: from the breeding and the seed production to the delivery of the products to our customers. We have access to unique genetic resources and will intensify our research to be able to continually present new and innovative solutions to the market."*

Christian Knolle, CEO of SUET, adds: *"Through the merger, our renowned family businesses will jointly build a long-term project with new dynamics. The merger allows for even closer cooperation. We will secure our business and open up new markets."*

The acquisition is financed mainly by equity, bank loans and a capital increase at Deleplanque. The latter is jointly signed by the company's shareholders (Deleplanque family and employees) and Unigrains, an investor specialised on the agri-food sector, which has been operating in Deleplanque since 2016.

Eric Verjux and Christian Knolle oversee the management of Strube. They have appointed Gregor Schoess as Managing Director. His task is to facilitate the integration process and to support the Strube management team. Gregor Schoess has many years of experience in the management and finance management of medium-sized companies in Germany and internationally. He will take office on April 4, 2018.

#### Involved

**Deleplanque & Cie:** Eric Verjux - Francois de Romemont - Laurent Boisroux - Laurent Algans

**SUET:** Christian Knolle - Jürgen Knolle - Dr Jörn Dau

#### Consulting (financial audit)

**PriceWaterHouseCoopers:** Philippe Chavanne - Olivier Lorang - François Duhau (France) - Patrick Ziechmann (Germany)

#### Legal advice

**RD Associés (France):** Nicolas Randriamaro

**Heuking Kühn Lüer Wojtek (Germany):** Dr Stephan Degen

**Posch Frank (Germany):** Moritz Frank

#### **About Deleplanque & Cie:**

Deleplanque is an independent French seed company. The company employs 50 people and has a turnover of 50 million euros. The company's capital is held mainly by the Deleplanque family and its employees. Unigrains, an investor specialised in the agri-food sector, also holds capital. The seed business of Deleplanque is divided equally between the production of sugar beet, hybrid cereal, sunflower and vegetable seeds on approximately 5,000 hectares and the sale of beet seed, hybrid rye, sunflower, soybean and catch crops. The company has three seed stations and works with a network of 500 multipliers.

For more information: [www.deleplanque.fr](http://www.deleplanque.fr)

Press contact:

Anne Roze: +33 (0) 1 34 93 27 17 - +33 (0) 6 12 42 94 57

a-roze@deleplanque.fr

#### **About SUET Saat- und Erntetechnik GmbH:**

SUET Saat- und Erntetechnik GmbH is a medium-sized, independent family business that has been processing high-quality seeds of all kinds on behalf of many breeders for 70 years. The company employs 150 people and has a turnover of 30 million euros. The company's activities focus on the pillaging and incrustation of sugar beet seed and seeds from other crops. The company's services include comprehensive quality inspections and subsequent logistics regarding the seed. SUET fulfils the requirements of the Julius-Kühn-Institute for professional seed treatment plants.

For further information: [www.suet.de](http://www.suet.de)

Press contact:

Christa Bierschenk: +49 5651 92 73 52

bierschenk@mick-pr.de