

Wendel becomes the Founding Sponsor of the Centre Pompidou-Metz

May 3rd, 2010 - Paris and Metz - Wendel and the Centre Pompidou-Metz entered into a partnership agreement.

Through this agreement, Wendel will become the founding sponsor of the Centre Pompidou-Metz, which will open to the public on May 11. Wendel is committed to working alongside this new institution over the next five years, to contribute to its development and influence on the French and international cultural stage.

The Centre Pompidou-Metz, a sister institution of the Centre Pompidou in Paris, is the first example of decentralisation of a major national cultural institution. It has shared the founding values of the Centre Pompidou: innovation, generosity, open to all and involving multiple disciplines. The Centre Pompidou Metz have access to more than 65,000 works in the Centre Pompidou, which houses the largest collection of modern and contemporary art in Europe, to enable it to offer an autonomous cultural programme which covers all disciplines of artistic creativity.

Frédéric Lemoine, Chairman of Wendel's Executive Board said that, "Wendel is extremely proud of this agreement, which will enable the company to support a flagship project for the Lorraine region, the birthplace of the Group and its founding families. We wanted this partnership to adhere to Wendel's own core values of long-term investing, which is a synonym for loyalty and solidarity in our commitments, innovation, which we believe is key to creating not only economic value, but also human, artistic and corporate value, and the ambition to step up our international influence in a region at the heart of Europe."

About Wendel

Wendel is one of Europe's leading listed investment firms. The Group invests in France and abroad, in companies that are leaders in their businesses: Bureau Veritas, Legrand, Saint-Gobain, Materis, Deutsch, Stallergenes, Oranje-Nassau and Stahl. Wendel plays an active role as industry shareholder. It implements long-term development strategies, which involve boosting growth and margins of companies so as to enhance their leading market positions.

Wendel's consolidated 2009 sales totalled €4.9 billion. Wendel is listed on Eurolist by Euronext Paris. Standard & Poor's rating: Long term BB, negative outlook – Short term B since 12 February 2009.



Inauguration of the Centre Pompidou-Metz

To celebrate its opening, the Centre Pompidou-Metz is inviting the general public to come and visit the museum from Wednesday May 12 to Sunday May 16, 2010. During this five-day open house, visitors will be able to come and discover the building's spectacular architecture and visit the opening exhibition, entitled "masterpieces?" free of charge.

Artistic events will take place throughout the open house to celebrate this birth of a new cultural institution in Europe. On Saturday May 15, the Centre Pompidou-Metz will take part in the sixth "Nuit des Musées", putting on a highly entertaining programme.

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Centre Pompidou-Metz

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