

Press announcement

Johannesburg, 18 January 2023

GRAF and RBB agree strategic partnership

GRAF Group, based in Teningen, Germany, has acquired a majority stake in RBB Group (ROTOMADE, BIOROCK and BIOROTOR), a Luxembourg based rotational moulding and wastewater treatment specialist. Through this strategic partnership, RBB's full workforce of 100+ will join the GRAF Group, providing continuity for the teams, clients and business partners alike.

GRAF, a second-generation family-owned group led by Otto P Graf, is a European market leader in the rainwater harvesting market and active in the decentralised wastewater treatment sector. With a workforce of 650+ and active in 12 countries, the group commercialises its products in 80+ countries worldwide. GRAF has been active in France for over 50 years, a core market for RBB Group.

RBB Group is a leader in the passive decentralised wastewater treatment sector. Leveraging on ROTOMADE's rotational moulding expertise, the group develops, manufactures and commercialises BIOROCK decentralised wastewater solutions. RBB has also recently expanded its product range into innovative semi-decentralised wastewater solutions through a new BIOROTOR product. With production plants in Luxembourg and France, the group distributes its products globally via several joint ventures.

Graf (CEO of GRAF Group) comments: "We were highly impressed by the quality of the RBB team and the group's wastewater treatment solutions, which will complement our current product suite. Through this acquisition, we are also further strengthening our footprint in our core French market, next to our current operations in Dachstein. We welcome the full RBB workforce to the GRAF Group and are very pleased to partner with Antoine Machado and his team in a spirit of continuity and to drive the next phase of the group's development."

Machado (CEO of RBB Group) comments: "For more than 20 years, RBB has developed to become a leading player in the decentralised wastewater treatment and rotational moulding space. In an ever-changing environment, investments, innovative product development and speed to market are key for continued success. With GRAF Group, I have found the ideal partner to capture the significant opportunities that lie ahead, while providing continuity to all stakeholders."

PwC Luxembourg acted as lead M&A advisor and provided financial vendor due diligence services to RBB Group.

RBB has a 50% shareholding in BIOROCK Africa. David Light (MD of BIOROCK Africa) comments: "My team and I are excited to join the GRAF family as we continue to expand our presence in the decentralized wastewater treatment market. BIOROCK Africa remains committed to bringing innovative, appropriate wastewater treatment technologies to the continent to address the increasing challenges of dignified sanitation and water security. This merger affords us access to additional technologies to support and accelerate our vision for the continent."

BIOROCK trickling filter systems cater for single households and small communities up to 180 persons, whereas the BIOROTOR Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) systems modularly accommodate communities of 200 – 5000 persons.

GRAF develops, manufactures and markets an extensive range of products for water management, including rain water harvesting, storm water management, wastewater treatment, and water recycling.

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