

Press release

Liege Airport, 13 March 2017

First Stop, Airport City

The company L'Escale Liège is investing 18 million euros in a major real estate project at Airport City. This initial investment is the successful outcome of the joint efforts of SOWAER and LIEGE AIRPORT.

Today, Monday 13 March, in the presence of Mr Maxime PREVOT, Vice President and Minister of Public Works and Areas of Economic Activity, and in collaboration with LIEGE AIRPORT, SOWAER (*Société Wallonne des Aéroports* - Walloon Airports Authority), is signing its first real estate transaction. SOWAER is active in the economic development of 470 hectares of business parks around Liege Airport.

Located north of the runways, Flexport City is devoted to activities using the infrastructures of the airport in relation to air freight: it is currently offering investors 28 hectares of fully equipped lots.

To the south of the airport, Airport City is devoted to office-based activities and those linked to passenger transport: it currently has 11.5 hectares available.

L'Escale Liège SA is the first company to invest in Airport City. It is a company specialised in real estate development and was formed as the result of an association between two companies: Project² NV, a real estate developer, and Bernard Construction SA, a construction company based in Liege.

The latter company will establish a large-scale real estate project covering 1.5 hectares to the south of Liege Airport.

In all, this will entail 3 rectangular buildings 57 m long by 14 m wide on stilts, each having 4 floors with 820 sq. m. of offices. These will be completed by a square building with 8 floors including full service provision, meeting rooms and terraces looking out on to the wooded landscape.

A major first step

This transaction is the result of close collaboration between LIEGE AIRPORT and SOWAER through the Land in Liege unit (<http://landinliege.com/fr/>), responsible for marketing and developing the Flexport City and Airport City business parks situated near the airport.

The planned investment amounts to a total of € 18,000,000, € 5,000,000 of which will be to construct the first building. Work is planned to begin in October 2017 with delivery of this first building provisionally scheduled for the end of 2018.

"This large-scale real estate project is a major first step towards the successful commercialisation of our areas of economic activity", says Luc Vuylsteke, Chairman of the Executive Board of SOWAER. "These sleek buildings with green roofs will undoubtedly enhance the Airport City area. Negotiations are also under way for around ten hectares with developers specialised in logistics, and other investments should be finalised in the course of this year in Flexport City."

An increasingly attractive airport

Luc Partoune, CEO of LIEGE AIRPORT, is happy to observe that this investment confirms the attractiveness of the airport: "All cargo airports of consequence throughout the world have consolidated their growth by developing a second line with new logistics, transport and services companies and provision of office space. I have had the opportunity to see for myself the quality of the buildings constructed by Project² at Antwerp. This is a very promising partnership for the future of Airport City."

Marie-Dominique Simonet, President of the airport, is also keen to underline the prospects opened up by this new investment: "The metropolitan area of Liege is undergoing outstanding development in the field of logistics. The Walloon Government has a coherent policy, and this enables us to attract investors who are impressed with the advantages of the airport: its excellent situation, ideal connectivity with the motorway network, quality services etc. There is a positive ripple effect and the prospects are excellent for the economic development of Liege Airport. I welcome this."

Minister Maxime PREVOT is pleased to allow the redevelopment of the land acquired by SOWAER for economic purposes as part of the accompanying measures for the residents in the immediate area of the airport. According to him, "the new investment possibilities offered by the development of the business parks will make it possible to extend even further the influence of this regional airport and to anchor the socio-economic redeployment permanently in the Province of Liège thanks to the measures of the Marshall Plan 4.0."

Please find photos on the link <http://bit.ly/2ILbUSa>.

About SOWAER :

SOWAER was founded in 2001 in order to support the development of Walloon airports according to the principles of sustainable development and of preservation of the quality of life of residents in their immediate vicinity. It is responsible for:

- the management on behalf of the Walloon Government, of their holdings in the management companies of Walloon airports
- investments in airport infrastructure development
- the management of the environmental programme accompanying this development
- security and safety tasks entrusted to airport management companies
- the servicing and developing all the land, whether built up or not, purchased under the environmental support measures and located in areas of economic activity in the sector plan
- the advocacy for these airports with European and international bodies having a decision-making or regulatory influence on airports

Contact SOWAER :

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About LIEGE AIRPORT :

Liege Airport is the first cargo airport in Belgium and a European leader in the sectors of live animals and perishable products. Around 3,000 horses transit through Liege Airport on account of the specialisation of its partners, veterinary staff and infrastructures. www.liegeairport.com.

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PROJECT²

PASSION + ARCHITECTURE

As **Charles Wizen, CEO of Project²** explains: *“It is our wish to develop a project whose great architectural quality remains financially accessible to as many as possible. In order to achieve this objective we specially called upon Liège architect **Bruno Albert**. Because in fact, quite apart from his local roots, Bruno Albert is also very well recognised at an international level.*

*We also associated ourselves with **Sébastien Grutman, CEO of Bernard Construction**. This partnership provides us with a guarantee for the realisation of the project. Bernard Construction is in fact part of European group Cordeel.*

*Additionally, just as was the case in our experience as driver in re-stimulating the ‘**Het Eilandje**’ district in the Port of Antwerp, the development of the new ‘**L’Escale**’ business district opposite Liège Airport arouses real enthusiasm in the Project² team.*

*And finally, I would like to thank **Liège Airport** and its employees for their extremely dynamic cooperation”.*

Based in Antwerp, Project² wishes to strengthen its presence in Wallonia. In particular, the company wished to develop other mixed use projects (residential - offices, - retail –industrial) of a similar scale.

Project²: REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AS A CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION

Project² is a unique real estate developer. It is filled with passion for architecture and a sense of social responsibility for society and cities as meeting places for people and their environment.

With passion and nuance, it sees architecture and landscape as cultural instruments to create buildings and neighbourhoods that have character and a soul. Work that ties into a long-term perspective : innovative and timeless.

The selected architects are therefore at the service of their creations rather than the other way round, even if they are nationally or internationally renowned.

The pursuit of sustainability is reflected in the timeless architectural creations of these masters, who are some of the best designers of our time.

Project² also considers energy and environmental aspects as absolute priorities and ensures that its creations are masterly examples of sustainable engineering as well as beautiful architecture.

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