

Press release

25 October 2017

Florimond Desprez acquires SPB to strengthen their position in the potato plant market.

On 23 October 2017 Florimond Desprez signed 100% acquisition of the Société des Producteurs Bretons (SPB) and its subsidiaries: Gopex Distribution and Bret Seeds.

The companies, based in Brest in France, are specialized in the production and trade of potato plants.

Gopex Distribution and Bret Seeds have 12 employees. In 2016-17, the two companies distributed 30,000T of plants and realized consolidated turnover of €18M. Almost all Gopex Distribution and Bret Seed production is exported, primarily to Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Algeria. The SPB's flagship varieties are Alaska, Universa and Safrane.

This latest transaction for external growth is the continuation of the strategy triggered by the acquisition of Germicopa in 2013 and pursued with the purchase of Danespo shares in 2015. It demonstrates Florimond Desprez's objective to take front stage in the potato plant market.

Ownership of SPB reinforces Florimond Desprez's position in major foreign markets. It also provides them with a network of 44 producers with a total of 810 hectares of farmland in a region known for its excellent healthy environment and early maturation, a significant advantage when trading with Northern Africa and the Near and Middle East.

Florimond Desprez breeds plant varieties and produces seeds for the arable crop sector. The group is world leader in the sugar beet seed industry and is one of the leading European breeders of small grain cereals, as well as a front-runner in the European potato plant market. Established in 65 countries, Florimond Desprez has 1,015 employees and 15% of their turnover is invested in research.

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