   

**Groupe Sterne to acquire nox NachtExpress, creating a leading overnight critical logistic service provider in Europe**

* This operation is backed by Tikehau Capital, the global alternative asset management group and majority shareholder of Group Sterne, and Meanings Capital Partners, the previous majority shareholder
* Tikehau Capital, through Tikehau Capital’s flagship private equity energy transition fund and co-investors will reinvest significantly to fund this acquisition alongside historical debt financing partners of Groupe Sterne.

**Langenfeld, 21st February 2022 – Group Sterne, a leading French provider of critical logistics services, today announces the acquisition of nox NachtExpress, a key player in overnight premium express delivery services in Germany. The newly created group will become a leading provider of overnight critical services logistic in Europe.**

Founded in 1972, Groupe Sterne has established itself as a key European player in sustainable transport and premium multi-service logistics with a strong historical presence in France and a growing geographical footprint in Europe and Asia, with a network of quality partners. In addition to its well-established transport and overnight delivery services, the group has developed three complementary service solutions to better serve their customer base (time critical, urban and express daylight delivery, aftermarket), as well as a best-in-class digital platform. In 2021, Groupe Sterne delivered strong results with 270 million euros of turnover.

nox NachtExpress is a leading European player in overnight express delivery services with market presence in Germany, Austria and Benelux regions. The company operates more than 20 warehouses throughout Germany, employs around 1,000 people and delivered 280 million euros of turnover.

The newly created group will comprise over 80 warehouses in France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, and the Netherlands, providing a diverse service offering to more than 6,000 shippers. The group will employ more than 2,200 people globally, providing ample resources to serve more than 100,000 customers a day with 3,000 delivery trips.

nox NachtExpress was acquired from the SSVP III, a private equity fund advised by Orlando. The proposed transaction should be completed during the second quarter of 2022, subject to the approval of the relevant administrative and regulatory authorities.

In October 2021, Tikehau Capital invested significantly in Groupe Sterne through its private equity fund dedicated to energy transition, alongside a significant reinvestment from Sterne management team and Meaning Capital Partners (the previous majority shareholder), with its co-investors Idia Capital Investissement and GSO Capital. Tikehau Capital became a majority shareholder of Group Sterne to support its organic and international development strategy. Tikehau Capital has decided to back this major operation through an incremental investment via its T2 energy transition fund and its co-investors (incl. Arkea CM).

**Daniel Desage, Executive Chairman of Groupe Sterne and Laurent De Rosnay, CEO of Groupe Sterne said:** "*This merger is major evolution for both groups, introduces a pan-European offer and further our strategic partnership with our clients. We aim to create new standards for critical services with an efficient and reliable high-speed network. We would like to extend a warm welcome to nox NachtExpress customers, employees and partner companies and look forward to the next chapter of our development together.”*

"*The complementary alignment of our two companies will provide our existing customer base with new - previously unavailable – opportunities and services to optimise their supply chains. We remain committed to increasing the efficiency, quality and sustainability credentials of our service offering.*", **said Donald Pilz, CEO of nox NachtExpress.**

“*Road freight in Europe currently accounts for 33% of transport-related CO2 emissions. Optimising routes, filling trucks, overnight delivery and vehicle energy efficiency are the main levers identified by the International Energy Agency to achieve the 2030 objective of halving CO2 emissions. We are delighted to support Groupe Sterne’s acquisition of* **n***ox NachtExpress. Their respective expertise and experience in delivery logistics as well as their global networks will position them as a front runner in the European sustainable transport and logistics sector.*”, stated **Pierre Devillard, Executive Director within the private equity team of Tikehau Capital**.

**Hervé Fonta, Managing Partner of Meanings Capital Partners** said: “*We are thrilled to be part of the creation of a pan-European leader in critical services logistics, which is a logical continuation of the transformation strategy that was initiated in 2017 when we first acquired Groupe Sterne. Tikehau’s investment in Groupe Sterne in late 2021 was meant to accelerate the international development of the company and the new ensemble is a key milestone of the ambitious strategy imagined by Daniel Desage and his team.”*

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**About Tikehau Capital and its private equity fund**

Tikehau Capital is a global alternative asset management group with €34.3 billion of assets under management (as of 31 December 2021). Tikehau Capital has developed a wide range of expertise across four asset classes (private debt, real assets, private equity and capital markets strategies) as well as multi-asset and special opportunities strategies. Tikehau Capital is a founder led team with a differentiated business model, a strong balance sheet, proprietary global deal flow and a track record of backing high quality companies and executives. Deeply rooted in the real economy, Tikehau Capital provides bespoke and innovative alternative financing solutions to companies it invests in and seeks to create long-term value for its investors, while generating positive impacts on society. Leveraging its strong equity base (€2.9 billion of shareholders’ equity as of 30 June 2021), the firm invests its own capital alongside its investor-clients within each of its strategies. Controlled by its managers alongside leading institutional partners, Tikehau Capital is guided by a strong entrepreneurial spirit and DNA, shared by its 683 employees (as of 31 December 2021) across its 12 offices in Europe, Asia and North America. Tikehau Capital is listed in compartment A of the regulated Euronext Paris market (ISIN code: FR0013230612; Ticker: TKO.FP).

For more information, please visit: [www.tikehaucapital.com](http://www.tikehaucapital.com)

Tikehau Capital launched its T2 Energy Transition fund in 2018 with the ambition to accelerate the growth of European companies contributing to the transition to a low-carbon economy. In February 2021, the fund announced the completion of its fundraising to more than one billion euros. T2 Energy Transition has already made ten investments in companies active in the clean energy production, low-carbon mobility and energy efficiency.

**About Meanings Capital Partners**

Meanings Capital Partners, a multi-activity platform specialised in unlisted Private Equity and Real Estate investment, supports and finances companies as well as real estate assets in their growth projects and strategic and capital transformation.

The management company has three divisions:

- Growth, for companies with a turnover of up to €50 million

- Mid Cap, for companies with a turnover of up to €150 million

- Real Estate, for real estate projects valued up to €150 million

The platform is made up of more than 35 people including 20 investors.

Meanings Capital Partners has initiated its own Responsible Investor approach, aiming to keep the development of Women and Men at the heart of the companies and living spaces it supports or redesigns.

Find out more: [www.meanings.com](http://www.meanings.com). To keep up with our news: www.linkedin.com/company/meanings

**About Groupe Sterne**

Founded in 1972, Groupe Sterne is one of the French leaders in critical logistics services, specialising in high value-added and tailor-made services. Groupe Sterne offers its customers regular night and daily transport and logistics services as well as time critical unplanned delivery services. Groupe Sterne has a strong historical presence in France and has successfully expanded its geographical footprint through a growing local presence in European and Asian countries, as well as a global network of quality partners.

€270m Revenue in 2021

1,100 employees

**About nox NachtExpress**

nox NachtExpress is the brand of Innight Express Germany GmbH, which was created in mid-2016 through the takeover of the overnight express business of the German TNT. The investor behind nox NachtExpress is Special Situations Venture Partners III (SSVP III) Fund, advised by Orlando Management AG. nox NachtExpress, headquartered in Langenfeld, Germany, employs over 1,000 people and has a turnover of around 280million euros. Up to 160,000 packages are moved each night. Throughout Europe, the company operates either through its own national companies, such as in the Netherlands, Belgium and Austria, or through a network of cooperation partners. Every night, around 2,600 vehicles are on the road for nox NachtExpress throughout Europe. This makes the company Europe's largest service provider for the delivery of goods and spare parts, which are collected late in the evening and delivered on the next working day before the start of work - either before 8:00, 7:00 or 6:00 am.

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