

Media release

SSE Group enters into strategic talks with EPC Group to combine their civil explosives activities

Brig, 24 February 2026 – SSE Group announces that it has entered exclusive talks with EPC Group to merge their activities in the fields of civil explosives and drilling and blasting.

This move is in line with SSE's long-standing strategy of strengthening its industrial position and contributing to the development of a leading European player in this sector. In a market characterised by increasing demands for innovation, sustainability and competitiveness, this project represents a significant milestone in the Group's development.

The plan is based on the transfer of SSE's civil explosives activities to the EPC Group in exchange for a strategic stake in the latter. SSE Holding will retain its fine chemicals division (Valsynthèse SA in Gamsen, Valais), which will continue to develop independently.

This potential merger would be based on the strong industrial, technological and geographical complementarity of the two groups. It would strengthen their innovative capacity, expand their market presence and create new long-term growth prospects on a global scale.

The ongoing discussions will not result in any operational changes. The activities and teams of both companies will continue to work as usual, and no impact on employment is expected.

Raymond Loretan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SSE Group, explains: *"This step is an opportunity to embark on a new chapter in the development of SSE Group. It would enable us to leverage our industrial expertise and actively participate in the European consolidation of the industry without giving up our roots in Switzerland."*

The possible implementation of this transaction is subject to ongoing due diligence and the usual conditions. SSE will keep the market and its stakeholders informed of any significant developments. The SSE Group's Annual General Meeting of Shareholders will vote on the completion of the transaction in June of this year at the earliest.

As this is a regulated and monitored negotiation phase, no further comments will be made.

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Société Suisse des Explosifs (SSE): Founded 132 years ago, the SSE Group is an industrial group primarily active in the manufacture and distribution of civil explosives products and services, as well as in fine chemicals. The group has developed strongly in recent years, transforming itself from a Valais-based industrial company into a European group with its headquarters and main production facility in Brig. It employs more than 700 people in eight countries and generates sales of around CHF 180 million.

EPC Group: The EPC Group (Euronext - EXPL) is one of the world's leading manufacturers, stockists and distributors of explosives. For 133 years, the group has been using its know-how, technical expertise and technological innovations to offer its customers in the mining, quarrying, infrastructure and underground construction sectors high-performance, value-added solutions.

With sales of over €550 million in 2024, the EPC Group employs more than 2,900 people in its 44 subsidiaries in over 29 countries.