



## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **ONTEX to strengthen its production infrastructure in France**

### **Aalst-Erembodegem (Belgium) - 16 March 2015**

ONTEX Group NV (Euronext Brussels: ONTEX) announced today to personnel representatives a plan to regroup its current production sites in the North of France, securing its future growth potential. The project consists of grouping its two current sites, Arras and Wasquehal, into a new site in Dourges and Noyelles Godault (62), located halfway between the current sites. This new factory will allow the company to further improve its production apparatus and better serve its French and international customers, while also improving working conditions.

Management has regularly kept the Works Council and staff updated about the progress of this project. Working groups will continue to develop this project, in light of its major importance for future production in France.

For ONTEX this project holds a major commitment to employment and growth in the long run. This integration involves some 350 jobs, and leads to a total investment of 45 million EUR in buildings, factory lay-out and machinery.

The laying of the foundation stone is scheduled for September 2015 and the end of construction for the summer of 2016. The move of production lines will gradually happen in 2016 and 2017. We hope to meet this timing thanks to a close cooperation between our teams, our partners PRD and Batyom, the Community of Henin Carvin and the communes, as well as North France Invest and various government services.

### **About ONTEX**

*ONTEX Group is a leading global producer of disposable personal hygiene solutions for babies, women and adults. Our high-performance, best-value products are distributed in more than 100 countries through leading retailer brands, as well as under our own brands.*

*Our 15 manufacturing sites are strategically placed across Europe, North Africa and Asia Pacific. Our 5,300 staff deliver quality products on time to our customers, globally. Our dedicated R&D Centers offer best-value innovation to consumers and customers.*

*ONTEX Healthcare in France currently has industrial activities in Arras and Wasquehal (Lille Healthcare). Both sites are specialized in the production and distribution of adult incontinence products for healthcare institutions and distributors.*

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