

## Etex extends its footprint in lightweight construction by acquiring Knauf's plasterboard business in Australia

*Etex announces it has signed an agreement with Knauf to acquire its plasterboard business in Australia. With this move, Etex expands its footprint on the attractive Australian construction market with significant growth opportunities. The acquisition is subject to customary closing conditions, with finalisation expected early 2021.*

Knauf Plasterboard Pty Limited is a top 3 player in Australia's plasterboard market and offers a competitive product portfolio ranging from plasterboards, metal profiles, finishing compounds to other specialty materials. The company operates three plasterboard plants in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, as well as a metal profile production facility in Queensland. The company employs over 300 people in total.

### Valuable assets

This Australian plasterboard company has established a strong commercial presence in the construction sector since its foundation in 1988. Driven by a professional management team, it delivers a sound financial performance thanks to a valuable array of assets that includes state-of-the-art facilities, strong knowhow and a network of leading distributors and customers.

### Adding a new regional pillar to a strong lightweight footprint

By acquiring Knauf Plasterboard Pty Limited, Etex adds a new and significant market to its plasterboard activities. In addition to the strong business advantages, the acquisition is consistent with Etex's recent strategic refocusing initiative, which aims to reinforce the Belgian multinational's strengths in lightweight and modular construction technologies and solutions around the world.

Etex CEO Paul Van Oyen is enthusiastic about the potential of this new addition to the Etex family, which expands the company's plasterboard business into a market where the group is already present in the fire protection and fibre cement segments.

#### More information

Lionel Groetaers | Head of Corporate Communications | Tel + 32 2 778 13 06 | [lionel.groetaers@etexgroup.com](mailto:lionel.groetaers@etexgroup.com)



**Paul Van Oyen, CEO of Etex:** *"I am happy to announce that we have signed today an agreement to acquire Knauf's plasterboard activities in Australia. This transaction is a major milestone in the execution of our strategic roadmap initiated two years ago. Since then, we progressively exited non-core activities, such as the clay and concrete roof tiles business, that no longer fits with our portfolio. Our strategy is focused on being a leader in lightweight solutions and modular construction, offering sustainable, cost-effective, high-performing and inspiring building solutions to our customers. Plasterboards play a key role in such solutions, and we are looking forward to collaborating closely with our new colleagues to open up new opportunities for growth."*

## About Etex

Etex is an international building materials specialist; the company wants to inspire people around the world to build living spaces that are ever more safe, sustainable, smart and beautiful.

Founded in 1905, headquartered in Belgium, Etex is a family-owned company with over 13,000 employees globally. It operates 101 production sites in 42 countries and generated a revenue of EUR 2.9 billion and a REBITDA of EUR 483 million in 2019. Etex fosters a collaborative and caring culture, a pioneering spirit and a passion to always do better for its customers.

Building on its experience and global market needs, the company strives to improve its customers quality of living with ever more effective lightweight solutions. Its three R&D centres support four global sales divisions:

- Building Performance: dry construction solutions including plasterboards and fibre cement boards, plasters and formulated products, passive fire protection and associated products.
- Exteriors: a range of aesthetic fibre cement materials for use in agriculture, architectural and residential exteriors.
- Industry: fire protection and high performance insulation products for the construction and OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) industries.
- New Ways: high-tech offsite modular solutions based on wood and steel framing

Etex is Inspiring Ways of Living, for more information, please visit our website: [www.etexgroup.com](http://www.etexgroup.com)

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**Etex NV** | PassPort Building | Luchthaven Brussel Nationaal | Gebouw 1K | 1930 Zaventem | Belgium  
+32 15 71 77 20 | [info@etexgroup.com](mailto:info@etexgroup.com) | [www.etexgroup.com](http://www.etexgroup.com)