



*Press release*

**The Avril Group announces its acquisition of The Kerfoot Group  
and broadens the scope of its activities in the UK**

Paris (France) and Northallerton (UK), 3 August 2015

The Avril Group (groupeavril.com), the French industrial and financial leader in the oilseeds and proteins sector, today announced signature of an agreement on its acquisition of The Kerfoot Group (kerfootgroup.co.uk), a family-led UK group specialising in the packaging and distribution of vegetable and speciality oils.

Through this acquisition, Avril will be markedly increasing its presence in the UK, reaching a new stage in the international development of Saipol's vegetable oil production.

Ultimately, Avril could also benefit from new growth prospects in the table oils market.

Founded in 1980, The Kerfoot Group specialises in the packaging and distribution of oils – bulk and packaged edible oils, speciality oils and fats – which are mainly destined for the food service market but also for the personal care and restaurant and catering industries.

The Kerfoot Group employs 113 people and in 2014 achieved turnover worth £74 million; it is based in Northallerton in North Yorkshire (UK), and has industrial facilities in the port of Goole (East Yorkshire). The current Group Chairman is its founder, David Kerfoot, while Jennifer Kerfoot is the Chief Executive.

A subsidiary of the Avril Group, Saipol produces and sells in France refined vegetable oils that are used for foods, protein-rich animal feeds, biodiesel under the Diester® brand (8% of which is included in the fuel used by all French diesel vehicles), and vegetable glycerine which has numerous industrial applications.

This operation consolidates a longstanding partnership between Avril and The Kerfoot Group, as Saipol has been a supplier of rapeseed and sunflower oils ever since The Kerfoot Group's creation.

The Kerfoot family will retain a shareholding in The Kerfoot Group and will maintain involvement and commitment to its success in the future.

**Jean-Philippe Puig, CEO of Avril:** "For the past 35 years, The Kerfoot Group has grown considerably while remaining faithful to the entrepreneurial spirit and customer service ethos that drove its creation. Together, we share the same values and the same vision for the oils and proteins sector. Avril is particularly proud of this new stage in its international development, which offers new growth prospects for our activities in the UK."

**David Kerfoot, Chairman of The Kerfoot Group:** "In recent years, we have made major changes that have favoured the Group's growth and allowed it to occupy a unique place in the British market. These ties with Avril are wholly integral to the development of our activities and ambitions for the future."

The details of this operation will not be divulged.

### **About The Kerfoot Group:**

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Founded in 1980, The Kerfoot Group is a family-led UK group specialising in the packaging and distribution of vegetable and speciality oils mainly destined for the food, technical and personal care industries.

With extensive industry knowledge and experience working with household brands and over 500 natural oils on offer for a variety of applications, it has become one of the UK's leading providers of high quality, organic-certified vegetable oils, botanical extracts, butters and waxes.

It is also the UK's leading independent oil trading house, sourcing and supplying high volume vegetable oils to the UK, EU, US and Asian markets from its ship terminal at Goole docks in East Yorkshire.

In 2014, The Kerfoot Group achieved turnover worth £74 million. It is based in Northallerton in North Yorkshire (UK), and counts 113 employees.

[www.kerfootgroup.co.uk](http://www.kerfootgroup.co.uk)

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### **About the Avril Group:**

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Avril is the industrial and financial actor in the French vegetable oils and proteins sectors. Its mission is to create sustainable value in these sectors, thus contributing to better foods for humans and preservation of the planet.

Set up at the initiative of the farming world, the Group holds a portfolio of strong brands that are leaders in their markets, such as Lesieur, Puget, Matines, Sanders, Diester, Bunica, Taous, El Kef, etc.

It has been growing for more than 30 years in France and other countries according to a unique model under which profits are always reinvested in the sectors concerned.

Avril's industrial activities are organised in two Divisions that operate in synergy. The Oilseeds Division processes oilseed grain and uses the oil for edible oils, sauces and dressings, and renewable energies and chemistry. The Animal Products Division is involved in three areas: animal nutrition and production, biosecurity and nutritional specialities, and food products.

Financial activities are carried out by Sofiprotéol, the finance and development arm of the Avril Group. Focused mainly on developing the vegetable oils and proteins sectors, it also provides support for companies of all sizes, and backs the development of innovation through loans and minority stakeholdings. With its activities organised around six principal areas of intervention, Sofiprotéol thus supports a hundred or so companies which represent some 80,000 jobs, and has made investments worth €250 million during the past five years.

In 2014, the Avril Group achieved turnover worth €6.5 billion. As at 31 March 2015, it counted 7200 employees working in 22 different countries.

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