



PRESS RELEASE

Sopral invests €14 million in modernization and development of its plant in Pléchâtel (Brittany, France)

Pléchâtel, France, 28 March 2017 — The management of Sopral, a specialist in food for dogs, cats (under the Pro-Nutrition brand) and horses (under the Dynavena and Sanders brands), a subsidiary of the Avril Group, announced yesterday a project to modernize and develop the industrial activities of its Pléchâtel plant (Brittany, France).

As part of this project the site, which employs 30 people, including 18 in production, will benefit from an investment of nearly 14 million euros over 3 years for its dry dog and cat food unit. This is an important milestone in the life of the site, which aims to be at the forefront of modernity and to double - to 40,000 tons - its ability to manufacture premium and super premium nutritional foods for dogs and cats, oriented to naturalness, well-being and nutritional balance, aimed at professionals and specialized circuits.

For Jean-Philippe PUIG, CEO of Avril: "This investment is in line with Avril's focus on listening to its clients, conquering new markets, to innovation and expansion of French sectors abroad. Commitments that Sopral successfully cultivates thanks to a recognized savoir-faire and an advanced manufacturing tool, guaranteeing safe products and best-in-class quality."

For Yannick GUEHO, managing director of Sopral: "Starting in 2019, the Pléchâtel plant will produce between 35,000 and 40,000 tons of high-quality dry extruded food each year, compared with 24,000 tons at the present time. A doubling of capacity that will allow us to gain in quality and flexibility, and to better meet the expectations of our customers, especially with regard to specific nutritional solutions. We will then be able to offer them an even more differentiated offer, with real added value."

With this investment, Sopral maintains its production activities in France, using more than 90% of its raw materials from France and without GMO, for French and European markets with moderate growth (3% to 4% a year). Avril's subsidiary, whose products are marketed in more than 50 countries, is also focusing on expanding its large-scale export business, particularly in South American markets, which enjoy sustained growth (over 10% per year).

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About the Avril Group:

Set up in 1983 at the initiative of French farmers in order to assure the future of the vegetable oil and proteins sector, Avril has become a major industrial and financial group that is developing in France and internationally.

Avril operates in sectors as diverse as human foods, animal feeds and expertise, renewable energies and chemistry, with a portfolio of strong brands that are leaders in their markets: Diester®, Sanders, Lesieur, Puget, Matines, Bunica, Taous...

In more than 30 years, the Group has changed in size but its purpose has remained the same: to create sustainable value in the vegetable oils and proteins sector while contributing to better foods for humans and preservation of the planet.

To fulfill its mission, Avril draws strength from its industrial activities organized around the vegetable oils and animal production sectors, as well as from its financial activity, which operates through the finance and development company Sofiprotéol.

In 2015, the Avril Group achieved turnover worth €6.1 billion. It counts 7,200 employees working in 21 countries

www.groupeavril.com | Twitter: @Avril

www.sopral.com

Contacts :

Anne BRISSAC | Groupe Avril | Avril Développement

+33 (0)1 90 09 97 18 | +33 (0)6 49 60 57 83

anne.brissac@groupeavril.com

Tom DORON | Groupe Avril

+33 (0)1 78 14 80 09 | +33 (0)6 26 28 39 94

tom.doron@groupeavril.com

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