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PRESS RELEASE

CONTACTS

Société Générale completes acquisition of Hertz Lease / Axus International

A new international dimension for Société Générale's European operational car renting and fleet management business

Société Générale took over ownership of Hertz Lease/Axus International from the Ford Group today following regulatory approval. Hertz Lease/Axus International, which is present in 12 European countries under the brand names Hertz Lease and Axus, has now become part of the Société Générale Group. This move reinforces the position of ALD Automotive, already present in nine countries (Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and the United Kingdom).

Société Générale Group now ranks second on the European operational car renting market and benefits from an extensive geographical coverage, a fleet managed of 500,000 vehicles and an international team dedicated to corporate clients.

ALD Automotive now covers 16 countries: Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Morocco, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

From March 17th onwards, all structures taken over from the Ford Group will adopt the ALD Automotive brand name.

The objective of the new ALD Automotive network is to provide a comprehensive solution for all of its customers' needs through a constantly evolving offer with an increased quality service. Thanks to the commitment of all its teams, ALD Automotive aims to build genuine partnerships with its customers, both at the national and pan-European levels.

Société Générale Group

The Société Générale Group is one of the largest banks in the eurozone. The Group employs more than 80,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- Retail Banking : Société Générale serves 14,5 million retail customers worldwide.
- Asset Management & Private Banking : Société Générale ranks third in the eurozone in terms of assets under management (EUR 270 billion in 2002).
- Corporate & Investment Banking : SG is the third largest bank in the eurozone based on net banking income.

Société Générale is included in the four major socially responsible investment indexes.
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