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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

In order to be competitive on future electric vehicle markets, Schrader Pacific Advanced Valves, a subsidiary of the Japanese group Pacific Industrial since 2018, has invested in its Pontarlier site (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region). The world's leading valve manufacturer has made a series of investments to strengthen its competitiveness. The firm is also launching an R&D program to adapt its production base to respond to the very rapid development of vehicle electrification. To do this, the business will see its workforce grow by around twenty people.



AGRI-FOOD

One of the main Japanese groups specializing in agri-food and fishing, Nippon Suisan acquired the French business Cité Marine in 2007. It continues to invest in France and in 2021 decided to set up a 12,000 sq. m. production facility in Saint-Quentin (Hauts de France region), with the aim of strengthening the manufacturing and sales of seafood products and vegetables produced in France, which are intended for the French market. Nippon Suisan plans to invest €32 million in this project to set up equipment boasting the latest manufacturing technologies and eventually create 96 jobs. The production facility will be operational in 2024.

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HEALTHCARE

Sophysa, a member of the Japanese group Tokibo, specializes in the design, manufacture and marketing of neurological valves and intracranial pressure monitoring devices. Generating 90% of its revenue from exports, the business needs to expand its production capacity and invest in automation equipment aimed at optimizing its processes to consolidate its international positions and conquer new markets.

This is why Sophysa has started constructing a second industrial building, enabling it to triple its production capacity within the next ten years and to double its onsite workforce, which is expected to increase from 150 to 300 people. This increase in capacity will also enable Sophysa to repatriate the manufacture of components currently produced abroad, thereby reducing its dependence on other countries and contributing to French health sovereignty.



WOOD PRODUCTS AND PAPER

Kokusai Pulp & Paper (KPP) is a business specializing in the distribution of pulp and stationery products, which is now gaining strength in new sectors (packaging, visual communication media, etc.). Due to the stagnation of the stationery market in Japan, the group is seeking new opportunities outside Asia through mergers and acquisitions. This is what led it to acquire the French firm Antalis, one of the world's largest distributors of industrial paper and packaging, as well as media for audiovisual communication, which was in difficulty following the judicial liquidation of its majority shareholder in 2019. This investment, which was completed in the summer of 2020, has strengthened Antalis's position, whose head office is located in Boulogne-Billancourt (Paris/Ile de France region) and which employs more than 500 people in France. It has also enabled KPP to establish itself in Europe by benefiting from the expertise of the French firm in the group's priority sectors.



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