

Press release

Sonaca signs a 14 million euro IT outsourcing contract with NRB

Herstal, Gosselies, January 18, 2016 – Sonaca, the Belgian global aeronautical top player, signs a five year outsourcing contract with NRB, the leading Belgian supplier of ICT outsourcing services.

Sonaca is active in the development, manufacturing and assembly of advanced aerospace structures for civil, military and space markets. It realizes a turnover of about 360 million euro, has production facilities in Europe, China, North-America and South-America, and employs over 2,500 people.

Sonaca is a privileged partner of the Airbus consortium and Embraer. The company is a front runner in terms of investments in new technologies and in human expertise in the aeronautical field.

Sonaca's strategic plan is very ambitious aiming at doubling its turnover in five years' time.

"Up till today Sonaca has been hosting and managing its own ICT infrastructure. But since we have our strong ambitious strategic plan, we realized we had to focus on our own core activities", explains Mr. Bernard Delvaux, CEO of Sonaca. "Outsourcing our ICT department will allow us to increase the quality of the ICT services, reduce the ICT costs and make them transparent to the business.

Moreover, the dedicated environment and the professional teams of NRB will make sure that our ICT set up will be future proof to cope with our business growth ambitions", he concludes.

After publishing an RFI (Request for Information) at the beginning of 2015, Sonaca published a RFP (Request for Proposal) in May 2015, already indicating that a team of ICT collaborators were to be transferred to the outsourcing service provider and that cost savings of at least 25% were to be realized. Moreover, KPI's were set forward to be applied for measuring the optimization of the ICT services to be delivered.

"NRB and Sonaca have signed a contract, worth 14 million euro, covering the period from 2016 up and till 2020. It involves the management of the workstations, the systems, SAP BC, the network, the service desk and their datacenter", describes Ulrich Penzkofer, CEO of NRB. "As of this month, we prepare the migrations to our datacenters. We will indeed bring all systems and activities up to our quality standards in order to come up to the requirements in terms of performance and security while making sure that the continuity of their business can be fully assured at all moments. This will also offer Sonaca an access to the most recent, efficient and secured solutions of the NRB private cloud and to specific public cloud offerings next to the shared resources and platforms offered by NRB. A team of 10 people will be transferred to NRB (CCT32bis), but they will be physically working at the site of Sonaca during a first period." "This contract is very important for NRB, not only because of the international and highly professional environment of the client, it will without doubt strengthen our position within the industrial sector within Belgium and beyond."

About NRB:

With total revenues of €300 million and more than 2,000 employees, the NRB Group is among the top 3 of the ICT sector in Belgium.

NRB is today fully integrating its latest acquisition Trasys. Together, they serve the public and social sector, the industry, utilities, financial organizations, insurance companies and European and international organizations. They accompany their customers throughout their digital transformation. The service portfolio covers the entire life cycle of an IT project: ranging from consultancy to operational management through (custom) development, integration and application maintenance, managed staffing, up and till document printing by an own print shop. IT systems and applications are being offered by NRB in a traditional development and hosting model or as a cloud service from the own private cloud, where needed complemented with public cloud services.

Next to custom development for mainframe environments (IBM and Bull) and for distributed systems, NRB and Trasys configure and implement software solutions from major vendors (SAP, Microsoft, IBM, Cisco, Software AG, etc.) to support the key activities of their customers, in domains such as ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning), Enterprise Content Management, Business Intelligence & Big Data, SCADA, Enterprise Mobility, eCommerce and Digital Marketing & Publishing.

The other entities of The NRB Group mainly focus on specific vertical sectors, while relying on the scale and the ICT infrastructure of NRB. The Xperthis Group is specialized in IT solutions for the health care sector. Cevi and Logins in Flanders and Civadis in Brussels and Wallonia offer IT products and services dedicated to the local public sector. And Afelio designs and develops professional mobile and web applications.

For more info, visit the websites www.nrb.be and www.trasys.be

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About Sonaca

Sonaca Group is a global Belgian company active in the development, manufacturing and assembly of advanced structures for civil, military and space markets. The group is especially known for its wing movables expertise where it is regarded the world leader serving most of the primes with a market share of over 50%. It has production facilities in Europe, China, North-America and South-America, and employs over 2,500 people including 350 engineers. In response to strong demand from its customers, Sonaca Group today also supplies engineering services, large sheet metal elements, wing plank, composite structures, and machined components.

For more information, visit www.sonaca.com

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