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## Press Release - Astorg acquires Aries Alliance

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Nantes, October 30, 2018 – Astorg and the shareholders of Aries Alliance today announce that Astorg has completed the acquisition of a majority stake in Aries Alliance along with company management from existing investors, Phoenix, CM-CIC Investissement, BNP Paribas Développement and ACE Management.

Aries Alliance is the global leader in advanced metal forming and milling technologies for the aeronautics industry, offering its clients specialized metal forming machines as well as mission critical parts.

The company was created from the spin-off of Alstom’s metal forming activity in 2000. More recently, the company has leveraged its historical engineering expertise to produce titanium hot formed parts, serving leading aircraft and engine manufacturers in Europe, North America and Asia.

Aries Alliance generates sales of 130m€ and employs 350 people at three production sites in Nantes and Grenoble (France) as well as in Monroe (North Carolina, USA).

The decision by the management team to choose Astorg follows a selective process designed to identify the strongest partner for the future development of the company.

**Eric Guyon, CEO of Aries Alliance**, said “We are pleased that the Astorg team has recognized the value of our distinctive know-how; Astorg has a strong track record in developing the companies it invests in, while respecting their culture and history. With their support as shareholders, we have the right set-up to deploy our ambitious growth strategy.”

**Christian Couturier, Partner at Astorg**, commented “Aries Alliance is a highly recognized global leader in its niche with a long track record in manufacturing metal forming machines. Its unique and disruptive industrial approach has enabled the company to successfully expand into the production of large and complex titanium aircraft parts. We look forward to supporting management in their ambitious plan to further develop the company.”

**Benjamin Dierickx, Director at Astorg**, added “We are delighted to partner with Aries Alliance during the next phase of its growth. We share management’s vision of leveraging Aries Alliance’s unique engineering know-how to further develop the titanium parts business while introducing new technologies to accelerate growth in the machines business.”

Advisors:

Advisors to bidder:

- Goodwin (Christophe Digoy, Thomas Dupont)



- Bain (Jean Marc Leroux, Bernard Birchler, Aurélien Fougerard)
- 8 Advisory (Justin Welstead, Dimitri Cromback)

Advisors to sellers:

- Transaction R (Pierpaolo Carpinelli, Martin Volatier, Augustin Delouvrier)
- Paul Hastings (Olivier Deren, Charlotte Dupont)
- LEK (Serge Hovsepian, David Danon-Boileau)
- EY (Stanislas de Gastines, Jérôme Cazauvieilh)

**About Aries Alliance**

Based on its long experience in manufacturing metal forming and milling machines for the aeronautics industry (stretchforming, hot-forming, super-plastic forming, elastoforming, large hard and soft metal 5-axis milling, etc.), Aries Alliance has established itself as the global leader in its field. Aries Alliance has progressively diversified into the production of complex titanium aircraft parts, leveraging a better production process as well as deep simulation expertise.

Headquartered in Nantes (France), Aries Alliance is the combination of 3 main companies: ACB in Nantes (France), Cyril Bath in Monroe (US), and Dufieux in Grenoble (France).

For additional information on Aries Alliance, please visit [www.aries-alliance.com](http://www.aries-alliance.com).

**About Astorg**

Astorg is a European private equity firm with total funds under management of over €4 billion. Astorg seeks to partner with entrepreneurial management teams to acquire European companies and create value through the provision of strategic guidance, experienced governance and adequate capital. Astorg enjoys a distinct entrepreneurial culture, a long-term shareholder perspective, and a lean decision-making body enhancing its reactivity. Though not specialized, Astorg has gathered a valuable industry expertise in healthcare, business-to-business professional services, and technology-based industrial companies. Astorg has offices in London, Paris, Luxembourg, Frankfurt and Milan, plus Senior Advisors based in Zurich, Paris and London.

For further information about Astorg: [www.astorg.com](http://www.astorg.com)

**Contact Information**

**Astorg (Publicis Consultants)**

Louis Branger +33 6 76 23 52 85 [Louis.branger@publicisconsultants.com](mailto:Louis.branger@publicisconsultants.com)

Stéphanie Tabouis +33 6 03 84 05 03 [stephanie.tabouis@publicisconsultants.com](mailto:stephanie.tabouis@publicisconsultants.com)