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KBC Securities joins worldwide M&A advisor Oaklins.

KBC Securities joins forces with the global mid-market M&A advisor Oaklins for its M&A activities and receives exclusivity for the Belgian market. KBC Securities' other business lines such as Equity Capital Markets and online brokerage (Bolero) are not part of the collaboration agreement.

In an increasingly global business environment, it is crucial for a local player to have a strong international angle. By joining Oaklins, KBC Securities demonstrates its clear ambition to expand further in M&A, and to build a leading position on the Belgian market similar to the one it has in equity capital market operations.

KBC Securities' M&A team will be able to leverage on the expertise and the local knowhow of 700 professionals globally in over 40 countries worldwide, with strong industry focus across 16 sectors. Oaklins stands for 1500 successful transactions over the past 5 years, making it the global reference in mid-market M&A transactions.

Through this cooperation, KBC Securities will be able to support its Belgian corporates and investors in their international expansion and proactively present them with acquisition opportunities in Europe, North America, the Far East and every other region in the world. When selling a company, it will allow the team to identify relevant buyers or investors worldwide. This unique combination of a local presence all over the world and specific sector expertise is the key for success in international M&A transactions.

Bartel Puelinckx – CEO KBC Securities: *“Today is an important step in our strategy to become the M&A reference on the Belgian market. Oaklins brings our M&A proposition to the next level. Clients nowadays want their financial advisors to be capable of accessing buyers and sellers in every corner of the world. By joining Oaklins, we combine the best of both worlds: an in-depth and unparalleled knowledge of the Belgian corporate market and a universe of international sellers and buyers in a variety of sectors. This unique combination will offer our Belgian corporate clients global buy-side ideas, whilst guaranteeing access to the widest array of potential buyers in sell-side situations.”*

Dr. Florian von Alten, President of Oaklins International Inc. adds: *“We are very proud that KBC Securities has been voted in as our exclusive member firm of Oaklins International in the Belgian market. Belgium was a gap on our Oaklins map. KBC Securities, with their staff of 17 dedicated corporate finance experts and their established position in the Belgian corporate market, will boost our M&A advisory business. With an Oaklins cross-border transaction ratio of close to 50% and a target transaction value range from €25m to €250m, we will see more cross-border transactions with Belgian companies in the near future. A number of promising projects have started already.”*

More info on Oaklins is available on www.oaklins.com.

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