

FIRST PILE OF ULTRAMODERN DISTRIBUTION CENTRE FOR CARGLASS® WESTERN EUROPE DRIVEN IN

Official ceremony in the presence of Frieda Brepoels (mayor Bilzen), Richard Tyler (Belron), Guido De Paepe (Carglass) and Jo De Wolf (Montea) to stress the local roots of Carglass® in Limburg.

Carglass® and Montea inaugurated the start of the works on their ultramodern, multi-modal distribution centre in Bilzen in festive style today and drove in the symbolic first pile of the new building, which will play host to more than 225 workers in the year to come. The first pile was driven in by mayor Frieda Brepoels (N-VA), in the presence of Richard Tyler (Belron), Guido De Paepe (Carglass), Jo De Wolf (Montea) and children of Carglass employees as a symbol of the future-oriented nature of this project. All logistics and distribution activities, which are now spread over four locations in Hasselt and Genk, will be centralised in the brand new and extremely sustainable site.

Ultramodern distribution centre in Bilzen

Montea develops and finances the entire project, which will consist of 41,932 m² of storage space and 2,874 m² of office space. In less than a year, the new construction will be finalized and the first vehicle glasses will be in stock. Carglass® will employ some 225 people there and has announced that it will recruit extra personnel in the near future.

Frieda Brepoels, mayor and also chairwoman of the Board of Directors of De Vlaamse Waterweg, is particularly proud of the centre in Bilzen: “That a company such as Carglass® opts for a second-line water-related site attests to the importance it attaches to sustainability. In so doing the company gives a clear signal that it wants to use inland waterways to transport its containers in the future, so as to be able to reduce its ecological footprint sharply.”



Guido De Paepe, CEO of Carglass® Belgium, is satisfied that the works on the new building are underway. *“This first pile is a historical moment and an excellent example of how various parties (Belron/Carglass, Montea, the City of Bilzen, De Vlaamse Waterweg) can cooperate efficiently. The ultramodern site moreover helps Carglass® grow roots in the region.”* *“We opted deliberately for the location in Bilzen because of the proximity,”* adds **Richard Tyler, Group Customer Director of Belron**. *“We want to spare our experienced and professional employees any inconvenience and make it easier for them to move.*

Jo De Wolf, CEO of Montea: *“Such projects fit perfectly with our philosophy. We are constantly looking for efficient and transparent property solutions for our customers. A flawless, long-term logistics hotspot must also secure well-being in the work environment. So we are particularly delighted to be able to go through with such a large-scale project in Flanders for a successful company like Carglass®.”*

MONTEA “SPACE FOR GROWTH”

Montea Comm. VA is a public property investment company (PPIC – SIIC) under Belgian law, specialising in logistical property in the Benelux and France. The company is a leading player on this market. Montea literally offers its customers room to grow by providing versatile, innovative property solutions. This enables Montea to create value for its shareholders. Montea was the first Belgian real estate investor to receive on 8th May 2015 the Lean & Green Star in recognition for showing that CO2 emissions have been effectively reduced by 26% in the Belgian portfolio. As at 31/03/2017, Montea’s portfolio of property represented total floor space of 780,249 m² spread across 47 locations. Montea Comm. VA has been listed on NYSE Euronext Brussels (MONT) and Paris (MONTP) since 2006.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Carglass®

Carglass® is the specialist in vehicle glass repairs and replacement in Belgium. Every year, the company helps more than 300,000 motorists round the clock, and year round, in one of the 42 service centres throughout Belgium, at home or at work, with one of the 100 service vehicles. In December 2016, Carglass® Belgium acquired the damage repair specialist CARE Carrosserie Belgium. Both networks exist next to each other at this time and have their specific expertise. Carglass® is part of Belron®, the world’s biggest company in vehicle glass replacement and repair, with service centres in 34 countries. Carglass® employs 750 people in Belgium. Belron® is part (94.85%) of the Belgian group D’Ieteren.

Bilzen

Bilzen has 32,173 inhabitants and covers 7,590 hectares.

The town makes sizeable lands available to new companies at the Genk South industrial estate. In addition to the Mobility Centre, there are plots of land owned by De Vlaamse Waterweg NV [Flemish Waterways] that can be used for transport over water (Albert Canal). Montea is currently building the new Carglass distribution centre on that land.

Vlaamse Waterweg nv

De Vlaamse Waterweg nv manages and operates the waterways as a powerful network that contributes to the economy, prosperity and liveability in Flanders. De Vlaamse Waterweg nv reinforces transport via inland waterways, sees to water management and enhances the appeal of waterways for recreation, tourism and nature experience. Some 1,350 staff at headquarters in Hasselt and departments in Willebroek, Brussels, Antwerp, Merelbeke and Mol work on a smart, versatile and prosperous waterway network.