

PRESS RELEASE
Regulated information

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Connect Group obtains medical certificate for production plant in Czech Republic

Kampenhout - Connect Group has obtained the ISO 13485 medical certificate for its facility in Kladno, Czech Republic. This quality standard is intended for suppliers of medical equipment and devices wishing to demonstrate compliance with legislative and customer requirements. The ISO 13485 certification opens up for Connect Group the technologically demanding market of medical equipment and confirms the quality of this production unit, which previously also earned the IRIS quality label for the rail industry.

The fact of Connect Group's Czech production plant obtaining the coveted ISO 13485 certificate is in line with the group's strategy of focusing increasingly on specific sectors like the medical market. The Kladno production plant has for years produced parts for medical devices, for which it boasts an extremely efficient traceability model. The step towards this certification was therefore a not particularly large one. Six months after the launch of this initiative the certificate was there.

The medical sector is in a significant process of evolution, with electronics playing a central role in diagnosis and research, but also increasingly placing its stamp on the therapeutic approach. European companies are playing a leading role in the development of these electronics. This is perfectly in line with Connect Group's growth strategy in Europe, which is directed at providing customers with close support in developing and bringing their products and solutions into production.

Besides Kladno, Connect Group already has ISO13485 certification for its facility at Veldhoven (the Netherlands), enabling it to serve customers from close by with developing and prototyping their products and preparing them for industrial production, also with the production of smaller batches. Kladno enables customers to order larger production batches in optimal conditions and to outsource the labour intensive assembly (of end products) at favourable prices.

Nor is this the first quality test that Kladno has passed. Earlier this year, the facility obtained the IRIS certificate, enabling it to serve the rail industry's most demanding customers. Kladno follows the Dutch unit in Veldhoven as the group's second production unit to be awarded this quality label. The Belgian facility in Poperinge is preparing to be the third location to reach this standard towards the end of this year.

Connect Group offers cost-effective, high quality production services to the professional industry. Activities include the production of cables and cable trees, PCB assembly and testing, production of semi-manufactures and final product assembly.

Connect Group's references include companies like Alstom, ASML, Atlas Copco, Atos, Barco and Philips. The company currently employs around 1,700 people in various facilities in Europe. The company's shares are traded on NYSE Euronext Brussels: CONN (www.euronext.com).

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