

### **Wendel enters exclusive negotiations with the Planeta group with a view to selling Editis**

Wendel has entered exclusive negotiations with the publishing group Planeta with a view to selling its subsidiary Editis.

Together, Editis and Planeta will contribute to the emergence of a new European publishing leader. The transaction is in line with Editis' business development strategy since 2004. During that time, Editis has acquired seven companies (incl. De Boeck in Belgium) with total sales of 150 million euros. Over the same period, its operating income has increased by 60%, reaching 93 million euros in 2007.

The sale agreement could be signed before the end of June 2008, provided the necessary authorizations are obtained and consultations take place as required. At that date, the enterprise value is 1,026 million euros, or around 11 times operating income.

In the context of the combination of the two groups, Planeta wishes to continue developing Editis, to preserve the integrity of the group and to maintain current management, with Alain Kouck as CEO.

For Jean-Bernard Lafonta, Chairman of the Executive Board of Wendel, "Alain Kouck's strategy has made Editis into a major player in French publishing. Combining it with Planeta is in line with our strategy to create and internationalize leading companies. We are pleased to have contributed to this strategic development."

Alain Kouck, Chairman and CEO of Editis, said, "the merger of Editis with Planeta is an important step. It will give a fillip to the growth of our group, enable us to build a new European publishing leader and ensure that Editis can expand outside the French-speaking world."

Planeta is the largest Spanish media group and the world-leader in Spanish-language publishing. It holds, in partnership with the Italian group DeAgostini, a strategic stake in Antena 3, the number two Spanish television station. The Planeta group manages sales of 2.5 billion euros, of which approximately 1 billion euros with more than 40 publishing houses. It publishes more than 5,000 authors.

#### **About Wendel**

*Wendel is one of Europe's leading investment firms listed on the stock market. It invests in France and internationally, in companies that are leaders in their sector: Bureau Veritas, Legrand, Saint-Gobain, Editis, Materis, Deutsch, Stallergènes, Oranje-Nassau et Stahl, in which it plays an active role as an industrial shareholder. It implements long-term development strategies, which involve boosting the growth and profitability of companies of a significant size in order to enhance their leadership. Wendel reported consolidated net sales of 5.5 billion euros in 2007. Wendel is listed on Eurolist, Euronext Paris.*

#### **CONTACTS :**

Christine DUTREIL tel : + 33 (0)1 42 85 63 24 - e-mail : [c.dutreil@wendelgroup.com](mailto:c.dutreil@wendelgroup.com)  
Gérard LAMY tel : + 33 (0)1 42 85 63 75 - e-mail : [g.lamy@wendelgroup.com](mailto:g.lamy@wendelgroup.com)  
Olivier ALLOT tel: + 33 (0) 1 42 85 63 73 – e-mail : [o.allot@wendelgroup.com](mailto:o.allot@wendelgroup.com)