

HEF GROUP BECOMES A MAJOR PLAYER OF DEFENSE AND CIVIL PHOTONICS INDUSTRY

HEF, worldwide expert of surface engineering for 60 years, diversifies in the Photonics industry through the acquisition of 3 major player companies.

HEF dedicates its performing vertical integration model to Photonics: from research to science, from technology to large scale industry.

HEF group enters a strategic sector: that of photonics (civil and defense) and thus contributes to maintaining industrial excellence in surface science.

This is a key area of diversification for the group; sales from the photonics business will account for around 10% of group sales in 2021.

To carry out this diversification and become a major player in photonics, the HEF group has acquired 3 companies: ABRISA, KERDRY AND FICHOU; it will also rely on its historical expertise (PVD/PECVD thin films, femtosecond lasers and surface characterization). The strategic areas targeted are defense, medical, space and digital.

Fabrice Prost, Chairman of HEF GROUPE : «*These three acquisitions are a unique opportunity. They are perfectly in line with HEF Group's strategy to be a global player in the field of photonics. The Group is delighted to integrate a team of 200 qualified employees. The synergies resulting from our complementary processes/surfaces and technical expertise will be a major asset in winning new projects and seizing opportunities, in all industrial sectors including defense, medical, space, mobility and digital.*»

Acquisitions in the photonics industry:

ABRISA : 18 M€ turnover 2020 - 142 employees, Californie, USA
KERDRY : 2 M€ turnover 2020 - 20 employees, Lannion - 22, France
FICHOU : 3.2 M€ turnover 2020 - 35 employees, Fresnes - 94, France

HEF Group in figures:

207 M€ turnover consolidated - 2020
3000 employees - 22 countries - 75 industrial plants

Press contact

Chloé Villeneuve
cvilleneuve.hefms@hef.fr

More about ABRISA Technologies

Optical coatings and glass manufacturing



ABRISA Technologies, optical coatings and glass manufacturing

ABRISA Technologies has been designing and manufacturing precision optical coatings and custom glass components since 1980 with two production facilities in California: Abrisa Industrial Glass and ZC&R Coatings for Optics, both close to Los Angeles and with an industrial footprint of 12,500 m².

From prototypes to series production, ABRISA Technologies machines, cuts, polishes and processes optical glass (ABRISA INDUSTRIAL GLASS) and produces in-house (ZC&R) all types of optical coatings by vacuum thin film deposition, in particular :

- Transparent and conductive (with electrical connections)
- Anti-reflection
- Dielectric filters and mirrors
- Treatments for thermal and chemical protection
- All treatments developed for optics and photonics (UV - visible - IR).

The main industrial and defense applications are:

- Ultra-thin glass
 - Integrated display screens
 - Filters and viewports for optical sensors
- and any improvement for durable coatings in harsh environment.

ABRISA IN FIGURES

18 M€ turnover 2020 - 142 employees, Californie, USA

More about KERDRY

Custom thin film deposition

KERDRY
THIN FILM TECHNOLOGIES

KERDRY, custom thin film deposition

Since 2003, KERDRY has created an industrial tool adapted to optical and metallic treatments by thin film deposition under high vacuum and in controlled environment. A park of 15 PVD (Physical Vapor Deposition) machines is installed in more than 1000 m² of clean rooms with the possibility of associating photolithography also carried out in situ.

Activity sectors

These skills allow KERDRY to address the space, medical, defense, aeronautics and digital markets as well as the luxury industry and R&D departments by offering them :

- Metallization on all types of substrates (glass, single crystals, organic), by electronic beam deposition, by sputtering, by thermal evaporation and in combined processes,
- Optical treatments from UV to IR (anti-reflection, dielectric, intense black, dichroic, filter...),
- Photolithography masking and creation of complete optical components.

KERDRY IN FIGURES

2 M€ turnover 2020 - 20 employees, Lannion - 22, France

More about FICHOU

French excellence in precision optics



FICHOU, French excellence in precision optics

The FICHOU company has been producing high-quality optical parts based on customer specifications since 1946. Committed to a process of better integration of the polishing and deposition workshops, it moved in 2017 into new premises of 2300 m² with clean rooms. In 2018, it benefits from the support of Definvest, in order to continue its productivity investments and the growth of the activity.

FICHOU works all types of components and substrates: prism, lens, viewport, mirror... from all types of materials: glass, sapphire, silica, metals, UV and IR crystals... with degrees of precision of $\lambda/20$ and dimensions up to Ø 1000 mm.

The treatment of optical surfaces extends from UV to IR in antireflection, separator, reflective, dichroic selector on glass, silica and crystals with standard treatments on substrates of common index: antireflective MC 400-700nm and reflective Aluminium protected.

FICHOU's main applications are in space and aerospace, defense and R&D.

FICHOU IN FIGURES

3.2 M€ turnover 2020 - 35 employees, Fresnes - 94, France

Annex

More information

Report: The key diversification of the group: photonics
Visual sources

