



Press Release

July 10, 2007

**The owners of DTS, advised by Aforge Finance, sell their shares to
Thomas & Betts of the United States**

The Belgian and Dutch equity funds GIMV and NPM and the company's management, advised by Aforge Finance, have sold their shares of Drilling Technical Supply (DTS) to Thomas & Betts, an American corporation. DTS is France's leading manufacturer of electrical and lighting equipment for explosive and corrosive atmospheres. It had a turnover of approximately 12 million euros in 2006.

"DTS expands our presence in electrical and lighting applications for explosive and corrosive atmospheres," commented Ben van der Stap, Thomas & Betts managing director for Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. "DTS is the market leader in France (with a 40-percent market share) and is present in more than thirty countries. Its international scope will enable us to accelerate the growth of our entire safety and protection line of business."

DTS was formed in 1983 and owns a manufacturing facility at Ozoir-La-Ferrière near Paris. It has representation offices in Singapore, Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. Originally, the company was a supplier of electrical and lighting equipment to the drilling industry. It now makes products for various industrial environments, all of which are considered hazardous and put a premium on performance, quality and safety. This includes the gas and petroleum industries, shipbuilding, chemicals and pharmaceuticals as well as certain food processing segments. All DTS products are ATEX compliant.

Memphis-based Thomas & Betts Corporation is a major manufacturer of electrical components for the building sector, manufacturing and utilities. In Europe, the company is a leading supplier of emergency lighting and of surge and fire protection systems. The company's best-known brands outside the United States include Emergi-Liten Existalite, Furse, Kaufel and Van Lien. Thomas & Betts is also a manufacturer of heating and ventilation systems for transmission facilities. It had total revenue of 1.9 billion euros in 2006.

Aforge Finance advised the sellers in this deal, which again illustrates the international expertise of its staff.

Financial Advisor to the sellers:

Aforge Finance: Bertrand Manet (managing partner), Antoine Peillon (analyst)

About Aforge Finance: Aforge Finance is a consulting firm providing both Corporate Finance services and Private Banking and Family Office services. With around 100 transactions completed over the past three years, it is one of the leading independent M&A advisors in France and a leader in the mid market segment. Its positioning and its international alliance with Macquarie in the US and Sal Oppenheim in Europe provide comprehensive coverage of the U.S. and European markets and a significant local presence to optimize relations with family-owned companies, industrial groups, private equity players and capital providers.

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Press contacts

Aforge Finance: Emilie Megel +331 53 81 71 20 – e.megel@aforge.com
Alexandra Imbert de Friberg +331 53 81 71 20 – a.defriberg@aforge.com