

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **With the acquisition of Van Looy Group and Exilab, VK architects+engineers is further specializing in logistics and lab projects.**

With the acquisition of Van Looy Group and its subsidiary Exilab, VK architects+engineers® is expanding its expertise in logistics and labs.

Van Looy Group is a consultancy and engineering firm, specialized in the design of logistics projects, more specifically warehouses, distribution centers, hubs and sorting platforms. The subsidiary Exilab is specialized in designing laboratories and cleanrooms.

With important ports in Antwerp and Rotterdam, improved multimodal infrastructure and accelerated e-commerce growth, the demand for logistics real estate in the Benelux has increased significantly in recent years. The Benelux has grown into one of the most important logistics hubs in Europe. But the food and chemical industry are also important investors in the Benelux. This translates, among other things, into an increasing demand for sustainable and energy-efficient laboratories.

Through the acquisition of these two niche players, VK architects+engineers wants to meet the increasing demand for specialized services. In addition to gaining market share, the company also sees a lot of potential in the interface between the different areas of expertise. "These markets require specialized solutions for technical installations, sustainability and fire safety. VK has already built up extensive experience and knowledge in these fields, which we can use in the projects of Van Looy and Exilab," reports Alain Bossaer, chief operations officer, VK architects+engineers.

"The increasing scarcity of land, a tight labor market and the need for sustainability are increasing the complex demands on logistics real estate. Logistical processes, automation and sustainable architecture will be designed in an integrated way more than ever in the future. By joining forces with VK architects+engineers we can further expand this integrated approach." dixit Kris Van Rossem, director of Van Looy Group.

In recent years, the need for R&D and GMP facilities in the research world has been growing rapidly. "To meet with this demand and with the required attention to the desired quality, it is necessary that Exilab engages into partnerships. The integration with VK only offers advantages for this," adds Bart De Bevere, director of Exilab.

Both companies are now a subsidiary of VK architects+engineers. They will continue to operate under their own name and are based at the same location in Antwerp.

### QUOTE

Paul Corbeel, CEO VK architects+engineers, "The acquisition of Van Looy Group and Exilab allows us to respond to opportunities in the market for logistics projects and labs. This acquisition also fits in completely with our strategic plan, which we are now rolling out at full speed. VK is a multidisciplinary specialist, our future lies in expanding different areas of expertise and additional acquisitions cannot be ruled out in the near future. We look forward to working with colleagues from Van Looy Group and Exilab."

### **About VK architects+engineers®**

VK architects+engineers is a multidisciplinary design agency with “out of the box” and long-term thinking in its genes. For the past 70 years, they used their ingenuity and multidisciplinary teams to design sustainable solutions. Proof points are the many projects in healthcare, industry, infrastructure and buildings. The office has grown to 535 employees, spread over Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Since 2020, VK architects+engineers has once again taken the leading role in the sector with the introduction of its full lifecycle approach: even more future-oriented thinking, by focusing on strategic partnerships with customers and stakeholders throughout the entire life cycle of its realizations, including the ‘after construction phase’.

In 2022 VK architects+engineers received the Best Managed Company label for the second time.

More info:

[www.vk-architects+engineers.com](http://www.vk-architects+engineers.com) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#).

Press contact : Sabine Janssens, director marketing & communication

[sabine.janssens@vk-architects-engineers.com](mailto:sabine.janssens@vk-architects-engineers.com) ; +32 473 994 310

### **About Van Looy Group**

Van Looy Group is a multidisciplinary consultancy and engineering firm for logistics, special techniques and construction. The office focuses on intralogistics as a strategic differentiator. A team of 20 consultants, engineers and architects designs and implements smart supply chains that can deliver significant cost savings. They have been engineering and realizing warehouses, distribution centers, hubs and sorting platforms in the Benelux for more than 45 years.

More info:

[www.vanlooygroup.com](http://www.vanlooygroup.com) | [LinkedIn](#)

Press contact : Kris Van Rossem, director Van Looy Group | [kris.vanrossem@vanlooy.com](mailto:kris.vanrossem@vanlooy.com) | +32 476 40 33 25

### **About Exilab**

Exilab is a multidisciplinary consultancy and engineering firm specialized in lab projects. They realize modular and efficient laboratory buildings in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, healthcare, education and the science and technology sector. The team of specialized laboratory designers and engineering experts is active in the Benelux market and is based in Antwerp.

More info:

[www.exilab.com](http://www.exilab.com) | [LinkedIn](#)

Press contact: Bart De Bevere, director Exilab | [bart.debevere@exilab.eu](mailto:bart.debevere@exilab.eu) | +32 470 920 957

