

PRESS RELEASE

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Belgian Competition Authority approves joint control by Alides and Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen over AI Campus Hub

On 19 January 2024, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) approved the joint control by Alides and Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen over AI Campus Hub.

The concentration was notified on 21 December 2023 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Alides is a Ghent-based family real estate player. Alides operates through the company Alides Real Estate Investment and Management ("Alides REIM") as developer, investor, manager and operator of a diversified real estate portfolio. Alides operates mainly in the real estate market for offices and residential buildings and to a more limited extent in real estate for industry, hotels, student accommodation and residential care centres. In its portfolio, Alides owns four office buildings in the Ghent area. Alides Properties is a patrimony company which, as a full subsidiary of Alides REIM, manages and leases its own real estate, including offices and residential real estate in Belgium.

Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen, as an investment company of the Flemish Government, is active in investing in companies (SMEs and large enterprises), projects (real estate, infrastructure and energy) and investment funds. It advises, guides and finances different types of real estate projects: (i) sustainable area development (e.g. science parks), (ii) real estate projects that are socially relevant (e.g. provincial houses), and (iii) heritage projects around buildings of historical importance.

AI Campus Hub is a collaboration between Alides and Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen for the development, realisation and operation of a new office building of approximately 17,500 m² on the Campus Ardoyen site in the Tech Lane Ghent Science Park in Ghent. A private-law development is envisaged as accommodation for companies and institutions active in, among others, the fields of artificial intelligence and photonics.

In its decision of 19 January 2024, the BCA found that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentration did not raise any objections.

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The Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) is an independent administrative authority that contributes to the definition and implementation of competition policy in Belgium. Concretely, the BCA pursues anti-competitive practices, such as cartels and abuses of a dominant position, and reviews the main merger operations. The BCA cooperates with the other competition authorities of the member states of the European Union and the European Commission within the European Competition Network (ECN)