

Draft – Press Release

The design and build specialist GSE is building the new Research Centre for Kerneos at Vaulx-le-Milieu (38)

Presentation of the project on 25th September 2009

Vaulx-le-Milieu, 25th September 2009 - The new research centre for Kerneos (or Kerneos Research Centre, KRC) will be completed in spring 2010 in the development zone of the technology park of Vaulx-le-Milieu. The construction of this Research Centre is being carried out by the GSE Group, specialists in the design and build of professional real estate, in conjunction with Amplitude architects led by Jean Yves Clément in Grenoble and appointed by Kerneos.

The new Kerneos Research Centre will be manned by the group's central research team which forms the centre of excellence responsible for product innovation and the coordination of the activities of the various applications laboratories of Kerneos around the world.

As world leader in the specialist field of calcium aluminate cements, the strength of Kerneos lies in its ability to provide innovative solutions and improved performance to its customers in various market sectors. This new Research Centre therefore represents an important lever within the strategy of the company and demonstrates the commitment of Kerneos to guarantee to its customers the highest level of expertise. Jean-Marc Bianchi, Managing Director of Kerneos, emphasizes that "the construction of this new Centre will allow our teams to work in the best possible conditions and illustrates the ambition of Kerneos to pursue its strategy of product innovation for its customers, notably in the construction chemicals and refractory markets"

With a total surface area of 4000 m², the Centre includes specialist laboratories, storage areas and offices. In spring 2010, it will be staffed by around 50 people (highly qualified engineers and PhD scientists, as well as laboratory technicians and administrative staff), this being 10 more than the current number of employees and it is expected to grow further in the future.

The tender for the project, initiated by Kerneos, was won by GSE on a number of determining factors. First and foremost, the technical capabilities of GSE and its expertise in the technical aspects of such a project were fundamental to satisfying the demands of Kerneos in terms of control of temperature, hygrometry and distribution of fluids. Furthermore, Kerneos appreciated the total transparency of GSE with regard to the costs associated with the alternative technical options. However, the key strength of GSE lay above all in its past experience in successfully managing and completing similar projects.

Description of the facilities

The building, designed by Amplitude architects, is arranged around a paved central area, visible from the entrance, which will provide an informal meeting area and exhibition space for materials. The full extent of the building sits within a steel frame structure with a combination of concrete panels and aluminium framework providing the exterior façade.

The site covers a total area of 18 500 m² and allows Kerneos the possibility of extending the facilities in the future. GSE has also taken this aspect into account in the design and construction of the walls.

A strong reputation in the sector of research centre construction

For a number of years, the GSE group has developed its design and build activity within the specific sector of research and development buildings.

Some significant references from this sector:

IFP Solaize :

Building comprising laboratories (12 000 m²), offices (3 900 m²) and industrial application pilot facility (1 600 m²) for the Research and Development department of IFP.

Lafarge – Isle d’Abeau

World technology centre dedicated to product development for the Lafarge group: construction materials research laboratories, cement manufacturing expertise, communication of know how and training. Total surface area 5 600 m².

IOTA – Massy Palaiseau

Design and construction of a building of 14 000 m² for the Institut d’Optique et des Techniques Avancées (laboratories, 2 lecture theatres, university student facilities...)

THALES – Massy Palaiseau

Research and Development centre for the field of optics built on the detached site of the Ecole Polytechnique. Offices, conference centre and laboratories covering 32 100 m².

L’OREAL EPISKIN - Lyon

EPISKIN, a wholly owned subsidiary of L’OREAL which develops and produces reconstructed human epidermis kits, awarded GSE with the contract for the turnkey project to build and fully equip a laboratory building of 2 500 m².

L’OREAL CAPI – St Ouen (93)



In the context of its research activities, L'OREAL awarded GSE the project for the construction of its new Applied Research and Development Centre in the Paris region.

A strong local presence

Already active for two decades in the Rhône-Alpes region, the GSE group and, in particular, its subsidiary CCR specializing in the design and build of real estate for small and medium businesses, has established a formidable presence in this region.

Having completed about a hundred projects in Rhône-Alpes, the group has acquired a substantial know how with regard to industrial and commercial buildings over a number of years. To illustrate this performance, numerous projects have been completed in the new town of l'Isle-d'Abeau including EDF in 1998 (10 500 m²), Prologis between 1998 and 2007 (260 000m²), the business park, Business Airport, for the developer DCB International, or the laboratory projects such as those completed for IFP or Lafarge.

About the GSE group

GSE specializes in the turnkey delivery of buildings for the industrial, logistics and commercial sectors. Since its creation in 1976, GSE has become the reference in this sector with the ability to manage all aspects of a construction project. With its strong brand and reputation, GSE also stands out as a result of its commitment and guarantees with regard to project duration, cost and quality. It is, today, a European leader in the market for turnkey design and construction and present in fifteen countries around the world.

Active for some twenty years in the Rhône-Alpes region, GSE set up the CCR operation in order to reinforce its position within regional markets. In the last four years, CCR has provided a local service via its network of regional offices and also provides the same levels of service, commitment and guarantees as its parent company. La Compagnie des Contractants Régionaux CCR comprises 14 regional offices throughout France and is the leading provider of turnkey design and build services.

For more information : www.gse.fr

About Kerneos

Reference supplier of products based on calcium aluminates, Kerneos provides its customers (refractory and steel industry, building chemistry, pipe lining and other specialist industrial applications) with an extensive range of high technology calcium aluminate binders marketed under the brand names CIMENT FONDU[®], SECAR[®], TERNAL[®], PERAMIN[®], ALAG[®], CALCOAT[®] and LDSF[®].

Supported by a worldwide industrial presence and a global supply network, Kerneos offers its customers the assurance of tailored services including local technical assistance and reliability and speed of delivery on all continents.

Kerneos constitutes one of the activities of the MATERIS group.

MATERIS is one of the world leaders in the field of speciality chemicals for construction and is made up of four divisions : admixtures, aluminates, mortars and paints. In 2008, MATERIS



achieved a turnover of around 1 800 M€ and employs nearly 9000 people in 35 countries around the world.

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