



LIVIA Group and IRIS Group - a Canon Company - reach an agreement on the acquisition of Hybrid Technology Solutions BU. The new entity will continue to operate under the brand WESTPOLE

A strategic operation aiming to create a leading European player in the field of Digital Platforms and Managed Services

Munich, June 12th 2020 - **LIVIA Group** announces the signing of an agreement for the acquisition of the **IRIS HTS (Hybrid Technology Solutions) Business Unit**, consisting of **HTS Belgium, HTS Luxembourg and IO (International Organizations)** from **IRIS Group - a Canon Company**. HTS will continue to operate under the **WESTPOLE** brand name, making it a leading European Group in cloud computing and managed services.

IRIS Group is part of the Canon Group. IRIS Group, leader in Information Management (I.M.) for over 33 years, is known for its best in class solutions and technology around the globe. Next to I.M. , IRIS Group has also built up two decades of experience and a solid knowledge base on Hybrid Technology Solutions (HTS), through the delivery of end to end IT solutions and consultancy services.

In order to accelerate its development and further enrich the portfolio of solutions and services that guide their customers through digital transformation, IRIS Group decided to focus its investments on I.M. and search for a strong partner to take over and further develop the HTS activities. Earlier today, IRIS Group came to an agreement with LIVIA Group on the acquisition of the HTS entities in Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy, including an entity focusing on European Institutions called 'International Organizations'.

Acting under the same brand, the acquired companies and the Italian **WESTPOLE** aim to maximize group synergies through an organic expansion of the offer, with the aim of providing companies with products and services in line with current and future market opportunities in cloud computing, digital platforms, artificial intelligence and blockchain.

With an experience of more than 40 years, **WESTPOLE** is one of the leading IT service providers in Italy, specialized in Managed Services, Business Process Management, Cloud Computing and

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Security solutions. Headquartered in Rome, and with regional offices in Milan, Venice and Bologna, as well as data centers in Milan and Rome, the company designs and manages ICT systems for around 500 customers including government agencies, financial institutions and private companies. Today **WESTPOLE** employs 250 people and has an annual turnover of around 40 million euros.

“This acquisition is another strategic investment in the IT sector, expanding our footprint in IT infrastructure and cloud services. It is also the next step for our portfolio company **WESTPOLE** towards becoming a Pan-European group” states **Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Löw, Founder and owner of LIVIA Group** “The European IT market is extremely dynamic and offers immense growth potential, and, thanks to the joining of **HTS**, the new **WESTPOLE** group will be able to implement advanced business solutions on a larger scale, both geographically and in terms of business development. Together with our employees, customers and vendors we want to further expand the current service portfolio and accelerate the growth of the business”.

LIVIA also confirmed **Massimo Moggi** as President & CEO of the new European entity, as he is a manager with a deep experience in the management of ICT companies in Europe and in the United States and, in particular, he has successfully managed the carve out and relaunch of **WESTPOLE** from Hitachi’s group in 2018.

“Particularly at this moment in time, when Italy and the entire world is facing unexpected challenges, the confidence that **LIVIA Group** has confirmed in **WESTPOLE** by choosing our brand represents a great recognition for the work done so far and, at the same time, a further incentive to improve ourselves, to confirm us as a point of reference for all the companies committed to ensuring the continuity of the supply of their services” says **Massimo Moggi, President and CEO of WESTPOLE** “The broad portfolio of services and products that the brand new synergy brings will allow us to look with renewed optimism at this restart phase, together with our partners and all our customers ”

“I look forward to continuing on the same elan of growth from the last years, this time as a key division of **Westpole** and with the support of **Livia Group**. Bringing our experience and knowledge together immediately puts us in a strong position in the European market, which will be beneficial for our customers and partners”, Adds **Bart Donné, COO of Hybrid Technology Solutions (HTS), IRIS**.

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“We’re very pleased to have found in LIVIA the right partner to further develop our HTS Business Unit. Under the brand name of WESTPOLE, the development of our employees and service continuity towards customers is in good hands. We are confident that the new environment and synergies will bring growth opportunities, making the future look very promising for both employees and the business”, concludes **Marc Bory, IRIS CEO and Head of Canon European Solutions Business** ”.

The transaction is expected to be closed during August.

The LIVIA Group is an independent industrial holding company and the private investment company of Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Löw, with funds managed for over 782 million euros.

LIVIA invests in a diverse spectrum of assets, ranging from corporates, real estate, agricultural, emerging markets, and fine arts & antiques. The more than 250 transactions performed have made the management of LIVIA a privileged and trusted partner of international companies and financial institutions.

LIVIA Corporate Development specializes in the acquisition of European company spin-offs/carve-outs and medium-sized companies with revenues between 20 and 1.5 billion euros. The focus is on corporate transformations and acquisitions of companies that perform less than potential for operational improvement as well as additional acquisitions for investments in existing platforms to achieve synergies.

livia-group.com

WESTPOLE is an IT Services & Solutions provider, owned by LIVIA Group, with more than 250 employees, over 1,200 certifications and 4 offices in Rome, Milan, Venice and Bologna.

WESTPOLE represents the ideal partner for the Digital Transformation of business, thanks to 40+ years of experience in Technology and Innovation management.

The company mission is to help Corporations in scaling-up the Digital Transformation, by providing technological assets, competence and consultancy with an end-to-end, tailored-made approach. It supports customers in their strategic challenges in areas such as Cloud Computing, Infrastructure, Applications and Cyber Security as well as cutting-edge topics like Artificial Intelligence.

WESTPOLE embraces Innovation with pioneering spirit, passion and empathy, establishing a new point of reference in the IT market, a “different landmark”.

westpole.it/

IRIS GROUP

IRIS’ mission is to help individuals, professional organizations, public administrations and international institutions to better manage their information and to transform their main assets into digital data, easy to archive, easy to share and easy to convert into valuable and actionable content. The group is organized in two divisions, IRIS Products & Technologies and IRIS Professional Solutions.

- For 33 years IRIS P&T engineers have been developing the IRIS software and products to guide customers into an more digitizing world. IRIS P&T division is specialized in Portable scanners & OCR software, Document capture platforms for document classification and data extraction, Document capture toolkits in order to make the in-house technologies available to software editors and hardware manufacturers.
- IRIS PS provides solutions and services to guide companies through the various steps of their digital transformation, thanks to an extended portfolio covering Information Management Solutions, Hybrid Technology Solutions, Consulting Services and Outsourcing.

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