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## **Bactoforce International acquired by MLZ holding, mother of Qlip**

**MLZ Holding B.V., the mother company of Qlip B.V., has acquired the majority of shares in Bactoforce International A/S. This inspection company of Danish origin is European market leader in the inspection of processing equipment in the liquid food sector. With subsidiaries in eight countries, this new sister company of Qlip will provide a substantial expansion of inspection services and thus also an acceleration of Qlip's international growth strategy.**

On March 1st, the transaction documents for the acquisition of the shares of Bactoforce were signed in Kolding, Denmark.

Bactoforce International is an independent inspection company that carries out unique integrity inspections of stainless steel silos, tanks, heat exchangers and pipelines in the food processing industry. The focus is on the liquid food sector: dairy, beer, beverage, soft drinks and ingredients.

The acquisition of Bactoforce International fits within the mission and growth strategy of MLZ Holding and Qlip. CEO Jan Bobbink: "The majority of shares in Bactoforce International means that our core activity of Audits, Inspections and Certification in the international dairy chain will be significantly expanded. Qlip will also gain access to new and interesting liquid food sectors outside the dairy industry. Furthermore, there are synergy benefits between both organisations in the areas of administration, human resources, product development, sales and marketing".

Having both their origins and main activities in the dairy sector, the two companies share important characteristics, while at the same time having each their unique strengths. This combination is a perfect match and a strong foundation for both companies' future ambitions and the expectation is also that significant strategic synergies can be realized over the coming years.

Bactoforce has over the past 25 years built up a broad customer portfolio in the European liquid food sector. The strategic target is focused on continued growth and market expansion, and from a Qlip perspective this market presence will become an important stepping stone for increasing its geographical footprint.

Digitalization, application of digital technologies and data-based customer value propositions is becoming increasingly important as a TIC service provider in the food industry. Qlip has over the past 10 years built up strong IT competences on the basis of its current role in supply chain in the Dutch dairy industry and can use this competence to bring Bactoforce several steps forward on this digital journey.

The acquisition also marks the exit for two of the existing owners in Bactoforce, Eigil Appel Pedersen (founder and chairman) and Jørgen Haaning Andersen.



## Statements

### ***Eigil Appel Pedersen, Founder (Bactoforce):***

“Bactoforce was started nearly 30 years ago and has over the years developed from a one-man company in Silkeborg to an international organization. I am pleased to see that the activities can be strengthened and further developed in the hands of a company that is equally devoted to ensuring quality in the dairy and food industry”

### ***Jan Bobbink, CEO (Qlip & MLZ Holding):***

“Bactoforce is the right fit for Qlip’s strategy. Bactoforce is a unique market leading company in integrity inspections which strengthens Qlip’s inspection services and expands our business scope in Europe. Bactoforce and Qlip are both independent service providers, the ideal combination to support stakeholders in the liquid food processing sector, in securing and strengthening their quality assurance & control and the prevention of food safety risks”.

### ***Nils Jacob Haaning, CEO (Bactoforce):***

“In joining the Qlip organization, Bactoforce becomes part of a financially strong, competent and ambitious TIC company with the roots in the same industry as ourself. I see this as an opportunity to develop the business concept and activities to the benefit of our customers, while at the same time providing exiting new perspectives for our employees. I look forward to growing the company further in partnership with Qlip”.



## Facts

**Qlip** (based in Zutphen, Holland) is specialized in quality assurance & control through offering testing, inspection and certification services to the dairy sector predominantly in Holland. The services are focused on the entire dairy supply chain from the farms, during the transport of raw milk and processing of milk in dairy processing facilities to the final dairy products in the store. The company employs 265 people.

**Bactoforce** (based in Silkeborg, Denmark) is specialized in offering integrity inspections of processing equipment in the liquid food industry to participate in ensuring product quality by providing information about the hygienic condition of production equipment such as tanks, heat exchangers, pipes, etc. The company employs approximately 60 people internationally and have activities mainly across Europe. Annually Bactoforce carries out more than 11,000 inspections in over 500 liquid food processing plants in Europe.

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