

## **PRESS INFORMATION**

### **Powerlines Group strengthens its presence on Belgian market**

#### **SPL Powerlines Germany-Branch Belgium with office location in Ostend founded**

**Piet Watté joined Powerlines on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2019 and is – together with Alexander Wiener – Head of SPL Powerlines Germany-Branch Belgium**

Wolkersdorf, 07.02.2019

The Powerlines Group has strategically expanded its business operations in Belgium by founding SPL Powerlines Germany-Branch Belgium. The new offices of the branch are in Ostend. Piet Watté and Alexander Wiener have been appointed Heads of the new Belgium branch of SPL Powerlines Germany. In the next few weeks the existing subsidiary, SPL Powerlines Benelux, is to be renamed SPL Powerlines Nederland B.V. and will continue to serve the Dutch market. Piet Watté and Alexander Wiener have been appointed Managing Directors of this subsidiary.

SPL Powerlines Germany-Branch Belgium will provide the entire range of services required for the electrification of local mass transit and mainline rail infrastructure in Belgium.

SPL Powerlines Germany-Branch Belgium is sure to benefit from the vast management experience provided by Piet Watté and Alexander Wiener. Since 2012, Alexander Wiener has been working for the Powerlines Group; he has been appointed Managing Director of SPL Powerlines Germany and SPL Powerlines Benelux in July 2018. Piet Watté joined Powerlines on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019, having previously been the director catenary from 2007 onwards and business unit manager for local mass transit Germany at EQOS Energie GmbH (formerly Alpine Energie Deutschland GmbH) from 2015 onwards.

Piet Watté: “The Belgian market will develop very positively over the next few years, since the government will make large investments, especially in the local mass transit sector. To meet the corresponding demand, we will be establishing a Belgian installation team and of course we will also be able to draw on the Group's human resources - a great advantage offered by Powerlines' international presence. I am very much looking forward to the new challenges ahead.”

Gerhard Ehringer, CEO of the Powerlines Group: “Powerlines has been successfully operating in the Benelux-states with SPL Powerlines Benelux for ten years now. Due to the forthcoming investments in rail infrastructure in Belgium, but also in the Netherlands, the establishment of a local Belgian branch is a logical and consistent step. I am delighted to have recruited Piet Watté as the Head of the Belgian branch. He is a vastly experienced manager, whose entire working life has been spent in rail infrastructure sector and whose familiarity with the Belgian market is unparalleled.”

### **Powerlines Group**

The Powerlines Group is an international corporate group active in the RAIL, PRODUCTS and ENERGY sectors. Powerlines is a system supplier in the RAIL sector and offers international customers a comprehensive range of services for rail electrification – including consulting, engineering and design, products, assembly and installation, service and maintenance – all from a single, reliable source. In the PRODUCTS sector Powerlines develops and distributes innovative components and complete systems for railway electrification. In the ENERGY sector Powerlines plans, installs and maintains high voltage transmission lines for energy supply utilities. Powerlines is one of the market leaders in rail electrification in Central and Northern Europe and the UK.

[www.powerlines-group.com](http://www.powerlines-group.com)

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