

## **Press Release**

### **Ergon-backed Looping acquires Zoo de la Flèche**

**Brussels, 10 November 2017** – The Looping Group (“Looping”), backed by Ergon Capital Partners III S.A. (“Ergon”) and Bpifrance, announces that it has reached an agreement with Stéphane Da Cunha, president and majority owner, for the acquisition of Parc Zoologique de la Flèche (“Zoo de la Flèche”). Stéphane Da Cunha re-invests in Looping alongside Ergon, Bpifrance and Looping’s management team.

Located in the Sarthe region (France), Zoo de la Flèche is a regional animal park with a premium accommodation offer which recorded sales of approximately €14 million and attracted around 441,000 visitors this year. Zoo de la Flèche is the thirteenth park and second animal park within the Looping Group.

Zoo de la Flèche is the second add-on acquisition since Ergon entered as the new anchor investor of Looping, after the acquisition of the German attraction park Fort Fun last April. Laurent Bruloy, CEO of Looping, commented: “We are very pleased to welcome Zoo de la Flèche in our group and believe that Stéphane Da Cunha and his team will bring a tremendous animal and immersive accommodation expertise to Looping.”

Stéphane Da Cunha added: “After having positioned La Flèche as one of the most visited animal parks in France, I am delighted to join the Looping Group. This combination will allow La Flèche to further grow and improve its offer to the benefit of our customers and employees. I am looking forward to working with the Looping team over the coming years.”

Wolfgang de Limburg, Managing Partner of Ergon, added: “We are excited to see Zoo de la Flèche join the Looping family, thereby further strengthening our animal park division next to Planète Sauvage. We look forward to acquiring additional sites to further reinforce Looping’s position as a Pan-European leader in the regional amusement parks market.”

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## **About Looping**

Created in 2011, Looping is a leading operator of regional amusement parks in Europe. The group consists of 13 parks located in France, Switzerland, Netherlands, UK, Spain and Germany. Proforma of the acquisition of Zoo de la Flèche, Looping will count around 3.5 million visitors per annum for a turnover of approximately €80 million.

For more information on Looping, please visit [www.looping-group.com](http://www.looping-group.com).

## **About Zoo de la Flèche**

Located in the Sarthe region (France), Zoo de la Flèche is a regional animal park which recorded sales of approximately €14 million and attracted around 441,000 visitors this year.

For more information on Zoo de la Flèche, please visit [www.zoo-la-fleche.com](http://www.zoo-la-fleche.com).

## **About Ergon**

Ergon Capital Partners III is a mid-market private equity investment company with ~€500 million under management backed by family-controlled Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, through its fully-owned subsidiary Sienna Capital, as cornerstone investor, and selected European institutional investors. Ergon is a disciplined and discreet value investor, which provides “patient and friendly capital” to entrepreneurs and managers, who need capital and industrial solutions to accelerate the development of their companies. Ergon makes equity investments from €25 million up to €75 million in leading companies with a sustainable competitive position in attractive niche markets located in the Benelux, France, Germany, Italy, Iberia and Switzerland. Ergon is advised by Ergon Capital Advisors which has offices in Brussels, Paris, Munich, Milan and Madrid.

Since its inception in 2005, Ergon, together with its two preceding investment programs, invested in 17 companies (of which 5 in the Benelux, 7 in Italy, 2 in France, 1 in Spain and 2 in Germany) and has completed 25 add-on acquisitions for a total aggregate transaction value in excess of €3 billion. Ergon’s current portfolio consist of 6 companies in various sectors encompassing luxury, specialty retail, industrial manufacturing, healthcare, media, leisure and gastronomy.

For more information on Ergon, please visit [www.ergoncapital.com](http://www.ergoncapital.com).

## **About Bpifrance**

Equity investment are operated by Bpifrance Investissement. Bpifrance, a subsidiary of the French state and the Caisse des Dépôts and the entrepreneurs' trusted partner, finances businesses from the seed phase to IPO, through loans, guarantees and equity investments. Bpifrance also provides operational services and strong support for innovation, export, and external growth in partnership with Business France. Bpifrance offers to businesses a large range of financing opportunities at each key step of their development, including offers adapted to regional specificities. With its 47 regional offices (90% of decisions are made locally), Bpifrance represents a strategic tool for economic competitiveness dedicated to entrepreneurs. Bpifrance acts as a back-up for initiatives driven by the French State and the Regions to tackle 3 goals: contributing to SME's growth, preparing tomorrow's competitiveness, and contributing to the development of a positive entrepreneur ecosystem.

With Bpifrance, businesses benefit from a powerful, efficient and close representative to answer all their needs in terms of financing, innovation and investment.

For more information on Bpifrance, please visit [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr) – Follow us: @Bpifrance - @BpifrancePresse.

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