

Unigrains acquires stake in Huilerie Cauvin

The family-owned company, a specialist in premium vegetable oils, seeks to strengthen the positioning of its eponymous brand, notably in the cosmetics segment, and to accelerate its international development

Paris and Saint-Gilles, France, October 3rd, 2022 – Unigrains, the agri-food specialized investor, subscribed to a capital increase carried out by Cauvin, **a family-owned oil mill specialized in the production, packaging and distribution of premium vegetable oils**. Through this operation, and with the support of Unigrains as a minority shareholder, the company seeks to strengthen the positioning of its eponymous brand, to reinforce its B2B activity (cosmetics, industrials), and to accelerate its international development.

Founded in 1951 and based in Saint-Gilles du Gard, France, Cauvin is a family-owned company, developed for many years by Mr. Filhol and led, since 2018, by Christian Port, which employs 50 people and has sales of €M 50. Historically specialized in conventional and organic olive oil – 30% of volumes – the company gradually diversified into specialty oils (avocado, walnut, hazelnut, etc.), rare oils (flax, sesame, hemp, argan, coconut...) and flavored oils. A reference supplier of major food retailers, Cauvin is now also present with agri-food industrial, out-of-home-dining and cosmetics clients in France and abroad, with exports representing 20% of sales.

Carried out at the initiative of its family shareholders, this transaction takes place as Cauvin begins a new stage in its development. With the support of Unigrains as a sector specialized investor with extensive experience in the market, the company aims to;

- strengthen the positioning of its national brand in France, as well as its offer for agri-food industrials and out-of-home dining clients through organic growth and targeted external growth opportunities
- continue its B2B development in the cosmetics and industrial segments
- accelerate its international development – beyond its success in China – and target new markets such as the United States and the Middle East.

Cauvin will also pursue its CSR commitments, formalized in 2016 through the « PME+ » label and strengthened in 2021 with the implementation of an Ethics Charter structured around 4 major axes of its responsible approach: Commercial Relations, Client Consideration, Societal Ethics and Sustainable Commitment.

Christian PORT, President of Cauvin, declared: *"With Unigrains, in the context of this first opening our capital, we have found a financial and strategic partner who is both an expert in the agri-food industry and comprehensive of the complexities of a family-owned company. It is together and on the basis of our common values that we will implement this ambitious development plan for Cauvin in France and internationally."*

Géraldine SALOMON, Investment Manager with Unigrains, declared: *"In a competitive market, Cauvin stands out for the quality of its products and its premium positioning, notably with large food retailers and in the organic segment. Alongside Christian Port, the Filhol family, and their teams, Unigrains will bring its sector expertise and its networks in France and abroad in service of this growth project."*

About Unigrains

For over 55 years, Unigrains has accompanied the development of agri-food and agro-industry companies providing tailor-made financial solutions in equity and quasi-equity, as well as contributing its recognized industry expertise. Unigrains manages 1 billion euros and is a partner for nearly 80 companies, operating at various stages of their development, notably capital restructurings, strategic investments and acquisitions, and ensuring national and international growth.

For more information: www.unigrains.fr

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