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DLF acquires the Florimond Desprez alfalfa seed business

DLF Seeds A/S and SAS Maison Florimond Desprez have signed an agreement by which DLF acquires the plant breeding and commercial alfalfa seed activities from Florimond Desprez with immediate effect.

In a business transfer, DLF takes possession of the alfalfa germplasm and varieties, seed stock and commercial agreements related to Florimond Desprez's alfalfa business. Designated Florimond Desprez staff involved in the alfalfa breeding program remain employees of Florimond Desprez. The parties have signed a long-term service agreement to facilitate and carry-forward all on-going alfalfa breeding programs and projects to be conducted by Florimond Desprez in Cappelle (FR) for DLF's account.

"Alfalfa is an important addition to our product offer to dairy and beef farmers. Strategically, alfalfa is one of the major forage species in many parts of the world and co-distribution with forage grass and clover seed will enhance our overall forage business," says CEO Truels Damsgaard, DLF.

"Florimond Desprez is not a forage seed specialist. When we were approached by DLF, we concluded that our strong and longtime successful alfalfa varieties and breeding program could undeniably be better leveraged in the hands of a forage specialist operator. In turn, the transfer offers good future opportunities for our designated breeder and team," says President François Desprez, Florimond Desprez.

DLF is committed to carry-forward in the best manor all business relations and distribution arrangements in respect of alfalfa varieties entered into by Florimond Desprez prior to this transaction.

Further information:

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Florimond Desprez is an independent family-owned company founded in northern France in 1830. Today, the company has a strong position as one of the global market leaders in sugar beet and is one of the leading European plant breeders with strong breeding programs in sugar and fodder beets, cereals and protein crops, such as peas and alfalfa. Varieties bred by Florimond Desprez are cropped in 65 countries. 938 employees in 16 countries. Florimond Desprez has a revenue of 230 M€.

DLF is the global market leader in the grass seed industry with 800 employees in 13 countries. The company has a worldwide breeding network as well as production and sales of clover and grass seed to more than 80 countries worldwide. Owned by 3.500 Danish farmers. The DLF group has a revenue of 454 M€.