



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **The Apave Group strengthens its industrial testing offering with the acquisition of Continental Automotive France's Qualification Laboratory in Toulouse**

Apave, an international group with over 150 years of experience specialising in technical, environmental, human and digital risk management, announces the acquisition of the **Continental Automotive France's testing laboratory based in Toulouse**.

#### **Testing, measuring and qualifying: a long-standing expertise of the Apave Group**

Industrial testing is a cornerstone of the Group's offering, which now includes more than 20 equipment testing and qualification centres in France and abroad. In France, the Group draws on the expertise of its subsidiary Sopemea, founded in 1948 and specialising in equipment qualification, particularly for the aerospace, nuclear, transport and defence sectors.

The tests carried out in its laboratories are COFRAC accredited and CIR and CII approved, enabling defects to be detected, performance to be validated and product compliance with applicable standards to be guaranteed. They are therefore essential for **ensuring the reliability, safety and performance of equipment** throughout its life cycle.

#### **The Qualification Laboratory at Continental Automotive France**

Founded in 1988 and based in Toulouse, the laboratory has over 40 employees and offers a comprehensive range of high-quality services: tests and measurements, materials and failure analysis, technical support throughout the equipment life cycle, and production testing in direct line with industrial chain requirements.

Historically focused on supporting the design and production of electronic components for the Continental factory in Toulouse, the laboratory has **diversified its customer and sector portfolio** and now covers a wide range of industrial sectors, including automotive, aerospace, defence, consumer goods and medical.

#### **A strategic acquisition that enables the Group to expand and enrich its offering**

This acquisition is fully in line with the **Apave Group's strategic plan**, which aims to strengthen its growth in France and internationally, particularly in priority markets such as Europe.

The laboratory joins **Sopemea**, an Apave subsidiary specialising in qualification testing and simulations. There are numerous synergies:

- complementary **expertise and equipment** for tests and measurements,
- a stronger geographical presence in Toulouse,
- expansion of the range of services offered in production testing and qualification of electronic components, as well as **materials analysis**.

"Our Group is actively pursuing its development and transformation. The acquisition of the Continental Group's qualification laboratory in Toulouse confirms the importance we attach to industrial testing and equipment qualification activities. These tests are an essential part of assessing the safety and quality of infrastructure and systems. These new capabilities are now available to our customers, particularly those in the aerospace, defence, automotive, consumer goods and medical sectors, with whom we have been working on projects and collaborations for several years," **said Philippe Maillard, CEO of the Apave Group**.

"I am convinced that combining our respective expertise, based on a shared DNA (uncompromising quality and customer service), will enable this entity, which is joining Sopemea, to further strengthen its reputation as a trusted third party, its competitiveness and its development. This laboratory will continue to support the design and production of electronic components for the Continental plant in Toulouse. I am delighted with this development, which guarantees a future for our employees and continuity of service for our customers," **said Stefan May, President of Continental Automotive France.**

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#### **À propos du Groupe Apave**

Apave is an international group with over 150 years of experience in technical, human, environmental and digital risk management. An independent company with a turnover of €1.4 billion in 2024, Apave currently has 17,500 employees, 130 branches in France, 170 training sites in France and abroad and more than 20 testing and equipment qualification centres. Apave has an international presence in nearly 60 countries. Apave provides inspection, certification, technical training, testing and measurement and consulting services to private companies and public authorities in France and abroad. For more information, visit [www.apave.com](http://www.apave.com)

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