

## PROPOSED ACQUISITION IN ECUADOR

### Negotiations underway with a major research and development player into the overproduction of cocoa worldwide

**Paris & Brussels, 13th May 2016 (8.00 am) – KKO INTERNATIONAL**, the world's leading company in the innovative production of cocoa, has announced that it has passed an important stage in the creation of its research and development subsidiary. KKO INTERNATIONAL also stated that it has begun negotiations with an Ecuadoran company specialising in the genetic development of cocoa, with a view to acquiring it.

To respond to the market's main concern regarding the risk of a structural shortage of cocoa beans between now and 2020, since it was first established, KKO INTERNATIONAL has focused its development on agronomic innovation aimed at optimising the sustainability and productivity of cocoa plantations.

In doing so, the company has significantly improved modern fertigation techniques in farming, developing new processes that enable productivity from cocoa trees to be boosted by +65%, aimed at achieving high yields of 5 tons of cocoa beans per hectare, compared with the current Ivory Coast average of 0.5 tons.

Validated at an experimental level, the company has now entered into the production phase of its processes and is seeking to speed up their introduction. With this in mind, KKO INTERNATIONAL has approached another company specialising in the enhanced production of cocoa in the world. Based in Ecuador, this company has already developed more than 30 hectares of cocoa using intensive industrial methods.

Drawing on the experience and expertise of the two companies, KKO INTERNATIONAL will soon be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of the techniques developed and prove that it is possible to produce cocoa today throughout the year and with high yields.

Rémy Allemane, Chief Executive Officer of SOLEA, the Ivory Coast production subsidiary of KKO INTERNATIONAL, said, *"I am delighted by this announcement, which significantly strengthens our research and development resources. It will also enable us to demonstrate the effectiveness of our techniques on an industrial scale. The time I have spent at their plantation in Ecuador has reinforced my ambitions for SOLEA to produce intensively on large areas of land. The acquisition of this company will also enable us to speed up the creation of a subsidiary for our R&D needs so that we can sell our consulting services and knowledge."*

Jacques-Antoine de Geffrier, Chairman of the Board of Directors at KKO INTERNATIONAL concluded, *"As a pioneer in intensive farming, KKO INTERNATIONAL is constantly increasing its efforts in research and development in order to respond to the problems of manufacturers in the marketplace seeking to obtain large quantities of consistent quality cocoa throughout the year. This acquisition in a new country that is key in the production of high-quality cocoa, will also open numerous other doors to KKO INTERNATIONAL, which for the first time will have a presence outside the Ivory Coast."*

### A propos de KKO INTERNATIONAL

La production mondiale de cacao, aujourd'hui essentiellement artisanale, ne permet pas aux industriels de l'agro-alimentaire de s'approvisionner avec une qualité et une quantité constantes. KKO INTERNATIONAL, pionnier dans la culture intensive, apporte une solution ingénieuse à la demande mondiale grandissante. En moins de 3 ans, les équipes de SOLEA, filiale de production de KKO INTERNATIONAL basée en Côte d'Ivoire, ont réussi à développer des techniques agronomiques innovantes, notamment un système d'irrigation goutte à goutte de chaque arbre, améliorant significativement les rendements de production de fèves de cacao. Avec une forte implication locale, la société est un modèle d'entreprise socialement responsable (certification RainForest Alliance en cours) et dispose à ce jour d'un foncier de 1 949 hectares dont 620 hectares en exploitation. Plus grande plantation de cacao d'Afrique, SOLEA ambitionne d'exploiter 3 000 hectares fin 2017, pour produire en toute saison un cacao de qualité élevée. SOLEA a ainsi pour vocation de devenir un partenaire naturel et favori de l'industrie chocolatière. [www.kko-international.com](http://www.kko-international.com)

**Prochain communiqué : résultats semestriels 2016, le 19 oct. 2016**

**Vidéo de présentation de KKO INTERNATIONAL et de ses ambitions :**

<https://www.labourseetlavie.com/strategie-et-resultats/remy-allemagne-administrateur-kko-international-nous-sommes-a-jour-pour-notre-plan-de-marche>

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