

May 6, 2022

John Cockerill appoints a new Chief Executive Officer

Last summer, Jean-Luc Maurange shared with Bernard Serin, President of John Cockerill, his wish to no longer serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Group. To meet his request, a structured and professional recruitment process was launched without delay. The challenge was to identify the person best suited to take over and lead John Cockerill into the future. Today, this successor has been identified: François Michel will join the Group on June 1 as the new Chief Executive Officer. After this date, Jean-Luc Maurange will continue to support the Group as a Director and will participate in strategic reflections.

Appointed Managing Director of John Cockerill in January 2018, Jean-Luc Maurange has successfully led the mission to reposition the Group and steer it towards balanced, profitable and sustainable growth. Today, John Cockerill manages a portfolio of activities perfectly adapted to the needs of the post-Covid world. In four years, the Group has become the world leader in carbon-free hydrogen production equipment, the world leader in receivers for solar thermal power plants, an integrator of renewable energy production and storage technologies, a technological forerunner in zero-carbon steel production, and a privileged partner of African countries in developing the infrastructure necessary for the economic, social and energy development of their populations.

Bernard Serin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of John Cockerill: "Since we appointed him CEO of our Group, Jean-Luc Maurange has been very involved in achieving our collective success. I would like to thank him warmly for this: John Cockerill's teams and myself know how much we owe him. I also know that he has been through some very difficult times on a personal level. That is why I respect his request to refocus on his personal priorities. Wisely, he considered that this aspiration was not compatible with his responsibility as Chief Executive Officer. I have therefore decided to offer him the opportunity to continue the adventure at our side as a Director on our Board of Directors, and I am delighted that he has accepted. As part of this mandate, we will entrust him with specific strategic reflections according to the needs of our organization.

Following a rigorous recruitment process, François Michel has been selected as John Cockerill's new Chief Executive Officer. He will take up his position on June 1. Aged 42, this French polytechnician is also Chief Engineer at the Ecole des Mines. Father of two children, he has worked in the United States, France and Scandinavia. His career has taken him to sectors as diverse as industry, French public finance and international finance, before embarking on a flawless ten-year career at Saint-Gobain, where he held several general management positions. "François Michel caught our attention because his diversified experience, his temperament and his personality fully match John Cockerill's new challenges. Well connected to the needs of our time, his action will be long term. Jean-Luc Maurange will provide him with all the support he needs to take up his duties quickly and efficiently," says Bernard Serin.

Twenty years after its emancipation, John Cockerill will be perfectly poised to write a new page in its history and assert itself as the undisputed champion of the decarbonization of energy, industry and mobility, while reinforcing the security of governments and sensitive sites.

John Cockerill, enabler of opportunities

Driven since 1817 by the entrepreneurial spirit and thirst for innovation of its founder, the John Cockerill Group develops large scale technological solutions to meet the needs of our time: facilitating access to decarbonated energy, preserving natural resources, contributing to greener mobility, producing responsibly, and fighting against insecurity.

Its offering to enterprises, States and communities comes in the form of services and associated equipment for the energy, defense, industry, environment, transport, and infrastructure sectors. John Cockerill achieved in 2021 a turnover of 947 million Euros in 22 countries across 5 continents.

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