With the acquisition of ECL, Fives is extending its range and strengthening its position as the world’s leader for key process equipment used in aluminium production.

Fives announces the acquisition of ECL, a specialist in the design and installation of equipment used to produce primary aluminium. ECL will become a new entity within Fives and bring a high level of complementary technical strengths and sales strategies.

**ECL, a leading equipment designer for aluminium producers**

Founded in 1947, and became a subsidiary of Pechiney in 1970 until its acquisition by Rio Tinto Alcan, ECL is a world leader in the design and installation of equipment used to produce aluminium, with a particular focus on Pot Tending Machines (PTMs), Furnace Tending Assembly (FTA) machines, and Anode Rodding equipment.

More than half of the world’s operating aluminium smelters outside China use equipment supplied by ECL.

The company also developed an offer of high-added value services (spare parts, maintenance, modernization). It aims to help aluminium producers to maximize the performance of equipment and industrial installations throughout their entire lifecycle. This growing business relies on dedicated teams that are close to customers.

In 2014, ECL generated a turnover of €130m. It employed 600 people in 7 countries (France, Canada, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Australia, China and India).

**Advanced and innovative equipment that complement Fives’ range**

Fives is well-established as a major player in the aluminium industry, covering carbon, electrolysis and casthouse areas through Fives Sollison. The complementary nature of Fives’ and ECL’s expertise in the three sectors will enable the new entity to propose technical offers based on a large range of key process equipment.

ECL has also developed technological innovations placing the company ahead of other equipment suppliers, notably for the automation of pot operation services, aiming at enhancing productivity and improving the safety and health of operators. This capacity for innovation, embodied by numerous patents, parallels the initiatives put in place by Fives in partnership with its customers, to develop pioneering technologies and systems with a reduced environmental impact.

Both Fives and ECL strive for high quality during the assembly and testing of machines to high standards by highly qualified teams. The ECL company in Ronchin (North of France) is certified ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and OHSAS 18001.
A new offer with high-added value for aluminium producers
Both Fives and ECL have complementary sales strategies:

- A future common service platform will be formed, providing local proximity and greater responsiveness to client needs. It will be supported by the different ECL locations around the world and the current Fives Solios’ teams dedicated to service.
- Fives has built considerable expertise in providing turnkey solutions. By incorporating equipment supplied by ECL, Fives is now able to offer complete carbon plants to the primary aluminium industry.

Frédéric Sanchez, Chairman of the Executive Board of Fives, announced, “With the acquisition of ECL, Fives has strengthened its position as n°1 in the supply of key process equipment used in aluminium production. ECL’s business perfectly complements that of Fives. The combined assets of our two companies will strengthen the quality of our offer to aluminium producers, in particular in the service sector.”

About the Fives Aluminium business
Within Fives, the Aluminium business line is specialized in the design and supply of process equipment and the management of complete installations in the three sectors of the aluminium industry: carbon, reduction and casthouse.

About Fives
Fives is an industrial engineering Group with a heritage of over 200 years of engineering excellence and expertise. Fives designs and supplies machines, process equipment and production lines for the world’s largest industrial groups in various sectors such as aluminium, steel, glass, automotive, logistics, aerospace, cement and energy, in both developing and developed countries.

In all these sectors, Fives designs and manufactures equipment and innovative solutions, which better anticipate and meet the needs of its customers in terms of performance, quality, safety and respect for the environment.

In 2014, Fives achieved a turnover of 1.6 billion Euros and employed about 8,000 people in nearly thirty countries.

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