



Press Release Paris, 10 September 2007

## Sopra Group announces its planned acquisition of Business Architects International, thus reinforcing its positioning in the European financial services market

Sopra Group announces its plans to acquire, in cash, 100% of the share capital of Business Architects International NV (BAI). This proposal, which is subject to Works' Council consultation in accordance with legal provisions and subject to the standard conditions precedent, should be finalised by the end of September 2007. On completion of the transaction, the company will be consolidated in the Group's financial statements as of 1 October 2007.

BAI has a "solutions for loans" offering that is best of breed from a functional and technological perspective and provides associated consulting and rollout services. BAI forecasts revenue for the current year approaching 11 million euros and a double-digit percentage margin.

For Sopra Group, this acquisition forms part of its stated strategy of developing its positioning in the European financial services market, and particularly of reinforcing its Evolan<sup>™</sup> application solution offerings covering the following areas:

- Consumer credit,
- Payments and distribution,
- Financial risks and reporting.

For BAI, this tie-up with Sopra Group will amplify its high-added value enterprise strategy, which will now be executed by a Group with much broader commercial coverage, well-placed to optimise the development of its current offering and secure major clients.

GIMV, BAI's key shareholder, is proud of this proposed acquisition and congratulates the professional approach and operational success of BAI's management and employees.

The financial terms of this transaction have not been disclosed.

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## **About Business Architects International**

Business Architects International is a highly-reputed European software company focused on solutions for the financial marketplace. The company offers financial institutions software packages, components, solutions and analytical models for the loans and credit business in Europe. Business Architects was founded in December 1997 and has branches in Mechelen, Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt and London. The shares of Business Architects are privately held by venture capital companies (GIMV being the reference shareholder), management and personnel.

## **About Sopra Group**

A leader in the European consulting and IT services market, Sopra Group generated revenue of €897.7 million in 2006 and has a human and intellectual resource potential of over 10,000 people. Thanks to a longstanding culture of excellence and strong sector-specific, functional and technological know-how, the Group offers its clients an end to end approach based on a well-honed business model. Sopra Group's ambition is to allow its clients to focus on transformation projects that will give them a competitive edge and help them drive growth. Sopra Group's savoir-faire encompasses prior strategic reflection through to the supervision and implementation of major systems integration and application outsourcing projects. The Group also pursues the worldwide deployment of its activities in both application integration and business process management through its subsidiary Axway, the world's leading provider of Collaborative Business Solutions, with a complete range of solutions and services. For more information, please go to our website www.sopragroup.com.

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