

## **Durst signs an agreement with Wise Equity and the management to acquire Aleph and to support its growth path.**

Milan/Brixen, Italy - September 19, 2023 - **The Durst Group**, leader in the production of advanced solutions for digital printing, **has signed an agreement with Wise Equity and the management to acquire Aleph Srl, a pioneer in sustainable digital solutions** for textiles applications and interior and exterior decoration. With this strategic move, the Durst Group further strengthens its position in water-based and sustainable printing technologies. For the Durst Group, the acquisition also means a connection to Como, Italy, a hub for textile design and high-quality applications.

Established in 2000 in Lurate Caccivio (Como), over the last 20 years, Aleph has transitioned from a software house and distributor of textile consumables to an independent manufacturer of innovative machines for digital water-based printing.

In 2017, Wise Equity entered Aleph's capital with the Wisequity IV fund, alongside the three historical entrepreneurs Alessandro Manes, Roberto Manes, and Roberto Temperini, to support the progressive internationalization journey, with the goal of positioning the company in special applications in both the textile industry and adjacent sectors such as billboard printing. Today, the company generates over 60% of its revenue abroad in more than 20 countries.

In recent years, the markets for digital printing technologies with water-based ink applications have experienced rapid growth, driven by the increasing demand for eco-friendly and customizable products. In order to address this market trend, it is essential to have not only high-performance printing systems with eco-friendly inks but also extensive knowledge of integrated process and software solutions. These are targets that Durst and Aleph aim to achieve together.

"Collaborating with Durst Group marks an exciting new chapter for Aleph," said **Alessandro Manes**, CEO of Aleph Srl. "Our shared passion for technological innovation, the pursuit of excellence, and the commitment to true sustainability define this collaboration. Together, we have the opportunity to make significant advancements in the digital textiles, exterior, and interior decoration sectors."



Durst, a leading company in graphic, packaging, and ceramic printing solutions, will integrate its expertise and support structure with Aleph's management team to further the growth journey that has been underway in recent years. This will involve increased investments in technology, innovation, technical support, and continued international expansion by entering new promising markets.

**Valentina Franceschini**, Senior Partner at Wise Equity, commented: "We are very proud to have accompanied Aleph through these years of transformation, from a distributor to a system manufacturer, now among the leaders in sustainable innovation. The company has achieved significant goals in terms of organization, product range, and technological development, and we are confident that Durst represents the ideal partner to continue the growth path."

The strategic acquisition aims to leverage synergies between the two companies by combining Durst Group's global presence and extensive distribution network with Aleph's expertise in sustainable digital solutions both systems and software – for textiles and decorations. This seamlessly aligns with Durst Group's strategy to diversify its portfolio and meet the evolving needs of its customers across various industries.

"We are delighted to welcome Aleph to the Durst family," says **Christoph Gamper**, CEO and co-owner of Durst Group. "Their expertise in sustainable water-based applications, their software for high-end textiles, and their creative solutions for water-based poster printing align perfectly with our vision of pushing the boundaries of digital printing technology. Together, we will strengthen our market position, expand our product portfolio, and enhance value for our global customers."

Durst's advisors were Baker Tilly, Lawfed BRSA Studio Legale, and Studio Lobis. Wise Equity and Aleph's advisors were Proximus M&A Advisory, Deloitte Legal, and Spada&Partners. The managers were assisted by Studio V Lex.

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## Durst Group

Durst Group is a global leader in advanced digital printing solutions. In its core business areas, Durst is at the forefront of transforming and digitizing industrial production processes. As a family-owned company with an important 80-year history, Durst emphasizes values such as innovation, customer orientation, sustainability, and quality. For more information about Durst Group: [www.durst-group.com](http://www.durst-group.com)



### **Aleph**

Founded in 1999 in Lurate Caccivio, Aleph develops and manufactures digital scanning printing machines for the textile and visual communication sectors. The company provides integrated printing solutions, with a focus on special applications where innovation and eco-sustainability are essential. For more information, visit [www.alephteam.com](http://www.alephteam.com)

### **Wise Equity SGR**

Wise Equity specializes in managing closed-end Private Equity funds that invest in small and medium-sized companies with a focus on Italy. Funds managed by Wise Equity typically engage in Leverage Buy-Out and development capital operations for companies holding leadership positions in their respective niches. They have two primary objectives: increasing critical mass through "build-up" operations and promoting international development. Aleph will be the fifth divestment of Wisequity IV (following Corob, Trime, Tapi, and Tatuus), a fund raised in 2016 with a capital commitment of 215 million euros. In addition to Wisequity IV, Wise Equity is currently managing two other funds: Wisequity V, raised in 2019 with commitment of 260 million euros, fully deployed in 8 investments, two of which already realized (Vittoria and Cantiere del Pardo); and Wisequity VI, whose fundraising has recently been completed, with commitments reaching the hard cap of 400 million euros. For more information, visit [www.wisesgr.com](http://www.wisesgr.com).

### **Contatti media:**

Wise Equity :

Close to Media, Adriana Liguori

+39 3451778974 - [adriana.liguori@closetomedia.it](mailto:adriana.liguori@closetomedia.it)

Paolo Ferrario - [paolo.ferrario@closetomedia.it](mailto:paolo.ferrario@closetomedia.it)