

1<sup>st</sup> March 2007

## **French-Anglo merger between SDV International Logistics and J E Bernard positions the Bolloré Group as a formidable global force**

**Global freight management and logistics solutions provider SDV International Logistics, the transport and logistics division of the Bolloré Group, today announced the merger of J E Bernard in a move to strengthen its UK operations and to further consolidate its position as a true global provider of freight management and logistics solutions products. This significant merger is consistent with SDV Group's pan-European development programme and will bring into balance its strengths within the European markets, following an earlier acquisition of the Geis Network in Germany.**

The merger with J E Bernard will add significant value and increase capability to the SDV Group, which has for some time been seeking to develop a stronger position within the UK, and is seen as a perfect fit between two unique organisations with highly differentiating yet very complimentary services, products and resources.

Commenting on the merger, Herbert de Saint Simon, CEO SDV International Logistics Europe, said: "The merger between SDV Group and J E Bernard is one of huge importance to us, creating a dynamic platform upon which we can build in the future. To this effect, we will continue to strengthen our European operations with further developments expected in the very near future".

Commenting on the merger, Ed Kimber, the Bernard Group Chairman and CEO, said: "The Bernard Group has enjoyed rapid expansion over the last decade with particular emphasis on the development of our supply chain logistics solutions, customs and legislative compliance products, but realised we needed a true global platform to seamlessly serve and dynamically respond to our customers' ever-changing needs as they compete in today's fast paced global economy. The merger with SDV International Logistics is a realisation of these requirements, enabling global reach and enhanced capacity, offering genuine solutions to complex supply chain issues, whilst forming a truly world-class organisation. A major consideration to both organisations was the perfect match of our people, assets and mutual customers which as a consequence made this a very exciting and compelling business proposition, creating an organisation of 445 offices in 88 countries, employing over 26,000 people. In the UK alone, the newly merged company will boast 17 locations, 6 purpose built freight terminal facilities and employ over 500 members of staff."

Bolloré Group is a diversified industrial group with a wide range of activities including Transport & Logistics, Fuel Distribution, Industrial activities, Media & Communication and Plantations. It employs 31,000 people in 105 countries with a turnover of 6 billion Euros. Transport and logistics is a core part of the Group's operations and this acquisition confirms

the Group's commitment to building world-class freight forwarding & logistics businesses. Within the Bolloré Group, transport & logistics account for 60% of total turnover with some 3.6 billion Euros in 2006.



*Herbert de Saint Simon, CEO SDV International Logistics Europe (left), with Ed Kimber, Chairman and CEO of the Bernard Group.*