

Drees & Sommer brings forward full acquisition of AA Projects

Stuttgart, March 01, 2023. Following an initial minority investment in March 2022, leading European real estate consulting company, Drees & Sommer SE, is bringing forward its full acquisition of UK property and construction consultants, AA Projects, a year ahead of its original plan. Originally expected to take two years to complete, the working relationship and integration of the two businesses has been so successful that as of 1st April 2023, AA Projects will be a fully owned entity of Drees & Sommer SE, operating as "AA Projects – Part of Drees & Sommer". The next phase of the integration will see AA Projects and Drees & Sommer UK come together as Drees & Sommer Ltd from early 2024.

The two businesses have already realised benefits from the partnership in being able to deliver a broader base of specialisms, and effectively combining delivery models, allowing new projects to be targeted and secured which directly support strategic goals. Clients across the hospitality, high-tech, logistics and infrastructure sectors have experienced increased capabilities and credibility from the joint offering, which, combined with the open and transparent cultural integration, has driven the decision to accelerate the deal.

As "AA Projects - Part of Drees & Sommer" the business is now looking to further integrate. Specialist teams are working across operations and culture to ensure the ongoing transition runs smoothly and that all stakeholders are bought into the overarching goal of making Drees & Sommer a key player in the UK market. The business will now focus on a shared vision for energy efficiency, the road to zero carbon and sustainable building - issues at the forefront of thinking for today's property and business clients.

With 4,500 staff over 51 locations, spread across Europe, the Middle East, China and the Asia Pacific, Drees & Sommer hold expertise in all aspects of project and construction management, real estate consultancy, sustainability, design and engineering, alongside a range of specialist services focused on cradle to cradle, technology and smart buildings. In 2021, Drees & Sommer reported their annual turnover to be €575 million (c£508 million). AA Projects is a highly respected UK property and construction consultancy in six locations across the UK, with over 200 employees.

Through the acquisition of AA Projects, Drees & Sommer will be provided with opportunities for greater access to the UK and Irish markets complementing AA Projects' existing business plan, and the joint organisation will be better able to focus on geographic expansion to the North American market. The new combined workforce within the UK will be over 230. Drees & Sommer will also benefit from AA Projects' strong UK reputation and respected client base in both the private and public sectors, including in education, residential and healthcare industries.

Shahlia Nelson-Rogers
Magenta Associates
Phone +44 (0)7887 537305
shahlia@magentaassociates.co

Peter Höpfner
Head of International Marketing & Communication
Phone +49 1727693193
peter.hoepfner@dreso.com

Kenneth Wood, Managing Director, AA Projects: “This partnership has already delivered significant benefits to the business and to our clients. The acquisition will allow us to further integrate our operations and teams so that we can further grow our footprint in existing sectors, but will also allow us to extend our excellent reputation into new markets and geographies. Since partnering with Drees & Sommer, we have been able to work together and build a joint vision that will deliver long term stability, growth for our business and career progression for our people. We are excited about this next step.”

Steffen Szeidl, CEO, Drees & Sommer:

“This exciting integration brings together two design and consultancy businesses with shared goals and a natural fit - both well-established with a strong reputation and respected client bases in both private and public sectors. The successful merger of AA Projects and Drees & Sommer allows us to expand our service offering in the UK and Ireland, with over 230 employees in 7 UK locations, combining automotive, logistics, data centre, healthcare, education, residential and hospitality expertise and more. Already we’re seeing our clients profit from the collaboration of both companies on joint projects and strategic advisory.”

Sascha Hempel, International Partner, Drees & Sommer:

“Since the start of the integration process, our highly qualified experts from both companies have joined forces on functional, operational and cultural matters. This has paid off already with clients benefiting from the combined know-how of an excellent team of innovative consultants. This positive synergy of quality and precision for sustainable and cutting-edge solutions cements our position as a market leader and provides long-term growth and stability for our business and our people.”

AA Projects is a management and property consultancy who prides itself on achieving best value for clients, providing specialist knowledge of property solutions, procurement, financing and the complete management of the construction process. The company has its head office in Manchester and further offices in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool and Oxford. The company has a well-established client base across a range of sectors including commercial, education, health, hotels, heritage, regeneration, industrial & logistics, arts & leisure, government agencies, residential, retail and transport & infrastructure. It has a proven track record of providing specialist consultancy services on a variety of international projects spanning Europe and the United States of America. The company has received the title 'Building Good Employer' on eleven occasions, having been selected by Building Magazine as one of the Top Employers within the construction industry. AA Projects is an Equal Opportunities Employer and is

proud to have been awarded the Investors in People accreditation. Energy and sustainability are key to AA Projects success and the company employs a team of consultants who are leaders in the field of advising and implementing sustainable, low carbon solutions. The company's specialist services include strategic management consultancy, project management, facilities management, cost management, building surveying, energy & sustainability and health & safety expertise.

For more information visit: www.aaprojects.co.uk

Drees & Sommer: Your Innovative Partner for Consulting, Planning, Construction and Operation

As the leading planning and consulting company with headquarters in the Germany city of Stuttgart, Drees & Sommer SE has worked with private and public clients from construction bodies to investors on all types of real estate and infrastructure projects – both analog and digital – for more than 50 years. With its pioneering and future-shaping consulting, the company offers solutions for successful buildings, high-return portfolios, powerful infrastructure and livable cities. 4,500 employees in interdisciplinary teams based at 51 locations worldwide support clients across a wide spectrum of sectors. All the services provided by the partner-run company take into consideration both economic and ecological concerns. Drees & Sommer calls this holistic approach 'the blue way'.

For more information visit: www.dreso.com/uk