

Press release

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Press
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Bekaert announces the sale of its Steel Wire Solutions businesses in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Venezuela

Bekaert today announces it has reached an agreement on the sale of its Steel Wire Solutions businesses in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Venezuela to Grupo AG. This transaction values the underlying entities at a consolidated enterprise value of approximately US\$ 73 million and is expected to result in net proceeds for Bekaert of approximately US\$ 37 million. The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2025, subject to applicable regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions.

Rationale

Bekaert's strategy in recent years, has been to transform its business portfolio by reducing the Group's exposure to more commoditized and volatile markets, while increasing its presence in faster growing markets, which typically offer higher profit margins and higher returns on capital. Following the divestment of its Steel Wire Solutions business in Chile and Peru in 2023, Bekaert now takes a further step in its portfolio transformation by exiting the businesses in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Venezuela to strengthen its focus on target segments, while securing a long-term future for the customers and employees of the divested entities.

Disposal entities

The transaction includes the production and distribution facilities of the Steel Wire Solutions businesses in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Venezuela. These facilities manufacture and sell steel wire products primarily for construction, agricultural fencing, mining, and industrial applications. The transaction concerns the sale of the shares held by Bekaert in BIA Alambres Costa Rica S.A. in Costa Rica, Ideal Alambrec S.A. in Ecuador, and Vicson S.A. in Venezuela, along with their subsidiaries in each of those countries.

Financial Impact

The activities subject to the transaction generated approximately US\$ 137 million in consolidated revenue in 2024. The proceeds from the sale will further strengthen Bekaert's balance sheet and support its commitment to shareholder returns and investment plans for growth.

François Desné, Divisional CEO of Bekaert's Steel Wire Solutions business unit, commented: "The proposed transaction unlocks the value of these businesses for Bekaert. It marks another significant milestone in our portfolio transformation, further strengthening the Steel Wire Solutions business with a more competitive and resilient market position. We have achieved numerous successes together with our longstanding partners. However, over time the characteristics of the markets in these three countries no longer align with our strategy. We are confident that this transition will ensure continuity for the local teams and customers under the new ownership when the sale closes."

Disclaimer

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the current views of management regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Bekaert is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release in light of new information, future events or otherwise. Bekaert disclaims any liability for statements made or published by third parties and does not undertake any obligation to correct inaccurate data, information, conclusions or opinions published by third parties in relation to this or any other press release issued by Bekaert.

Company Profile

Bekaert's ambition is to be the leading partner for shaping the way we live and move, and to always do this in a way that is safe, smart, and sustainable. As a global market and technology leader in material science of steel wire transformation and coating technologies, Bekaert ([bekaert.com](https://www.bekaert.com)) also applies its expertise beyond steel to create new solutions with innovative materials and services for markets including new mobility, sustainable construction, and energy transition. Founded in 1880, with its headquarters in Belgium, Bekaert (Euronext Brussels, BEKB) is a global technology company whose 21 000 employees worldwide together generated € 4.0 billion in consolidated sales in 2024.