

Press release

Regulated information

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Press

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Bekaert launches a public exchange offer on its bonds maturing 16 April 2014

Bekaert confirms today the **approval by the FSMA of the prospectus** filed on 19 September 2013, in connection with its proposed unconditional public exchange offer in Belgium and Luxembourg. This exchange offer applies to all 150 000 fixed rate bonds (ISIN Code: BE0002167337) maturing 16 April 2014 and having a gross coupon of 6.75%, in exchange for new bonds with a nominal value of € 1 000 and a gross coupon of 4.75% per annum, at a ratio of one new bond for each existing bond.

The net actuarial yield for natural persons tax resident in Belgium (taking into account the 25% withholding tax) for the new bonds amounts to 3.085% (calculated in economic terms on the basis of a reference market price of the existing bonds of 102.963% on 18 September 2013 and under the assumption that the new bonds will be held from their issue date until their maturity date, at which time they will be repaid at 100% of their nominal value).

The acceptance period will run from 23 September 2013 (9:00 CET) to 7 October 2013 (16:00 CET). The accrued but unpaid interests since 16 April 2013 on the existing bonds tendered in the proposed exchange offer will be paid on 17 October 2013.

The Dutch version of the prospectus has been approved in accordance with the Belgian Law of 1 April 2007 on public takeover bids and the Belgian Law of 16 June 2006 on the public offering of investment instruments and the admission of investment instruments to trading on regulated markets.

Investors are recommended to consult the prospectus and the response memorandum of the Board of Directors of Bekaert on the website of Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) in the [Investors section](#). A Dutch and English version of the prospectus and the response memorandum of the Board of Directors of Bekaert, as well as a French summary of the prospectus, are available, free of charge, at the counter of the agencies of BNP Paribas Fortis, Fintro, ING and KBC Bank or CBC Banque as well as on the banks' websites: www.bnpparibasfortis.be – www.ing.be and www.kbc.be/bekaert. We invite investors to carefully read the above-mentioned documents (and in particular the sections "Risk Factors" and "Selling Restrictions" of the prospectus).

More details can also be found in the [press release of 19 September 2013](#).

Profile

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coatings. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 27 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generated combined sales of € 4.4 billion in 2012.

Disclaimer

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.

Main risks and restrictions

The new bonds constitute debt instruments. Participating in the exchange offer and investing in the new bonds involves risks. Investors in the new bonds effectively lend money to NV Bekaert SA, which in turn undertakes to pay interest on an annual basis and to reimburse the principal amount on the maturity date. In case of bankruptcy or default by NV Bekaert SA, investors may not recover the amounts they are entitled to and risk losing all or a part of their investment. The new bonds are intended for investors who are capable of evaluating the interest rates in light of their knowledge and financial experience. Each decision to participate in the exchange offer and to invest in the new bonds should be based on all of the information contained in the prospectus, including the "Risk Factors" section on pages 23 et seq. (and referred to in the summary on pages 15 et seq.) and more generally risk factors that may affect the ability of NV Bekaert SA to fulfil its obligations under the new bonds and risk factors that are material for assessing the market risks associated with the new bonds. In particular, reference is made to the risk factors that are of special importance as a consequence of the long tenor of the new bonds (1.20-Liquidity risk, 2.9-Market interest rate risk, 2.10-Inflation risk and 2.13-Market value of the new bonds).

Investors are urged to investigate if this investment is appropriate for them, taking into account their knowledge and experience in financial matters, their investment aims and their financial situation, before deciding to participate in the exchange offer.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN OR INTO THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION IN WHICH SUCH DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE PROHIBITED BY APPLICABLE LAW.

This announcement and the prospectus have been prepared in connection with a proposed public exchange offer of bonds in Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The proposed exchange offer is not addressed to any person who is not (a) located in Belgium or the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg or (b) a "qualified investor" within the meaning of Directive 2003/71/EC, as amended, located in a member state of the European Economic Area who is authorized to accept the proposed exchange offer in such member state. The distribution of this announcement and any other information relating to the proposed exchange offer in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Any persons reading this warning should inform themselves of and observe any such restrictions.

This announcement constitutes publicity within the meaning of article 33 of the Law of 1 April 2007 on public takeover bids and article 60 of the Law of 16 June 2006 on public offers of investment instruments and the admission of investment instruments to trading on a regulated market. It is not a prospectus within the meaning of the said Law of 1 April 2007 or the said Law of 16 June 2006.