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A disability-friendly employer: Paprec and Fastroad get together to integrate Le Petit Plus

France's recycling leader and the adapted transport specialist have created a social joint venture by acquiring Le Petit Plus. The goal is to accelerate the development of this inclusive company specialised in waste collection by helping to ensure access to employment for people with disabilities.

Le Petit Plus was founded in 2009 by Mathieu Boullenger; it collects and recycles office waste. It is unusual in that 80% of its employees are people with disabilities.

In addition to its collection vehicles, Le Petit Plus operates a sorting line. The team manages all office waste flows. The company employs 60 people in Blanc-Mesnil (Seine-Saint-Denis) and works for leading service companies in the IIe de France area.

"As well as the recycling business, over the past ten years, we have slowly learned the ins and outs of employing people with disabilities, both the human side and regulatory aspects," related Mathieu Boullenger. "There is a high level of need and we have strong demands from our customers. We needed the support of a larger group in order to grow," confided the founder. "Paprec and Fastroad, in addition to their business expertise, share our values of solidarity and diversity; this alliance made sense."

For more than 10 years, the Paprec Group has been an active contributor to the social and solidarity economy. 97 disability-friendly companies and ESATs (sheltered employment structures) are now connected with all of its 210 sites in France.

Through its service sector waste subsidiary, La Corbeille Bleue, Paprec has been partnering with Fastroad since 2012. Through their joint offer, the two companies have already enabled the employment of eight people with disabilities and were looking to accelerate their collective development. This was the idea behind the acquisition of Le Petit Plus, in the form of an "ESUS" social joint venture to guarantee the social utility and purpose of the company.

"This alliance, supported by DIRECCTE Ile-de-France, will help to achieve the ambitious goal of employing 40,000 people with disabilities, defined by the French law concerning choice of a professional career," said Yves Lorieux, national director of La Corbeille Bleue. Paprec's activities also guarantee local waste recycling and recovery to all Le Petit Plus customers.

About Fastroad

Fastroad, founded in 2010, was the first disability-friendly company to specialise in the transportation of people and merchandise. It has 130 employees in France, 80% of whom have disabilities. Fastroad has locations in Paris, Strasbourg, Lyon, Nice and Toulouse. Fastroad has experienced two-figure growth rates since its creation, recently adding two franchised Speedy garages to its group.

Fastroad aims to be a model in the social and solidarity economy, making inclusion, equality, skills development and recognition for its employees an integral part of its philosophy. The company received the "Mieux Vivre en Entreprise" award in 2017, the top prize for "Meilleure Entreprise en Croissance" in 2019, and the "Excellence BPI" award in 2019.

About Le Petit Plus

The company was founded in 2009 and now employs 60 people. Specialising in the collection and sorting of office waste, it generates turnover of three million euro.

About Paprec Group

The group was founded and has been headed since its creation by Jean-Luc Petithuguenin. With the acquisition of Coved on 5 April 2017, the recycling specialist has become a specialist in the full waste management chain. Over 25 years, it has grown from 45 to 12,500 employees working at over 220 sites in France and Switzerland. It has a turnover of \notin 2bn.

Active in all existing recycling sub-sectors, the group is number one in plastic, paper, cardboard, and building waste recycling, as well as selective household collections. It is number two for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment, and number three for organic waste, wood, biomass and routine industrial waste. Following the acquisition of Coved, the group is now the third-largest player in the French waste treatment sector and the largest recycling industry player.

From the outset, Paprec Group has been known and acknowledged for its commitment to promoting diversity, secularism and the fight against all forms of discrimination within the company. In October 2016, the Paprec Group received the Trophée Global Axa des Entreprises Responsables (Overall trophy of responsible companies, presented by Axa). And in November 2016, Jean-Luc Petithuguenin won the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the BFM Business Awards.

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