

SWORD

UPGRADE YOUR BUSINESS

Press release 15 December 2003



- **Pro forma 9% increase in 2003 revenue**

- **Acquisition⁽¹⁾ of FI System Belgium in association with its operating team, and with the support of 21 Centrale Partners**

⁽¹⁾ by decision of the Paris Commercial Court on 15 December 2003

> **About Sword Group**

Created in December 2000

Chairman and founder:
Jacques Mottard

674 employees in December 2003

Quoted on Euronext Paris Nouveau Marché since 13 March 2002

Segment: Next Economy

Isin Code: FR0004180578

Bloomberg: SWDG FP

Reuters: SWORD.LN

FTSE: 972 IT services

SBF 250

> **Next announcement:**

Fourth quarter sales:
14 January 2004

Sword Group reinforces its position in the management of editorial content in Benelux

- **FI System Belgium is the holding company of the ASCII group, which manages the editorial content of news releases for large organisations. The institutions of the European Community are its biggest clients.**
- **FI SYSTEM BELGIUM creates Internet sites for the European Commission's Directorate General for the Press and Communication and handles its publications under a five-year €20m contract signed in 2002.**
- **Key points of the acquisition:**
 - **A 9% increase of Sword Group's consolidated revenue for 2003**
 - **The acquisition of a unit whose current excellent operating margin is fully compatible with SWORD Group standards**
 - **It provides an essential complement to the Group's know-how in the management of editorial content.**
- **Current year sales will be in excess of €5m with a staff of 60 at the end of 2003**
- **The acquisition of FI System Belgium, added to that of Zen & Art in the USA, will result in a 21% pro forma increase in 2003 sales. FI System Belgium will be consolidated as of January 1 2003.**
- **The strength of the acquisition also derives from the fact that the employees own 30% of the capital of the company acquired.**

SWORD Group Contacts

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