

Sword Group : succes of its initial public offering on the New Market

> **SWORD Group has been introduced successfully on the Euronext Paris New Market, the first such transaction this year on this regulated market**

- the transaction received final authorisation from the Commission des Opérations de Bourse, the french stock exchange regulatory authority on march 13, 2002 under no. 02-230
- the capital increase at this time of the introduction was enthusiastically subscribed to by institutional and private investor
- the share price was set at €42
- the transaction raised €16,17 millions, through the introduction of 385 109 shares, corresponding to 31,25% of the capital of the post-introduction capital, and was taken up as follows :
 - a capital increase reserved for the reference shareholder, FCPR 21 Développement, of 126,089 shares, in order to maintain its percentage holding in the capital of Sword Group
 - a capital increase open to other investors, of 259,020 shares
- the latter being 2.1 times oversubscribed for the guaranteed placement and 3.5 times oversubscribed for the open-ended price element
- following the introduction, the company's share capital amounts to €16,161,215, comprising 1,232,243 shares with a par value of €15 each
- Sword Group will be quoted on the continuous market from wednesday, march 13, 2002
- the partners to the introduction were:
Crédit du Nord, lead introducer
21, Société Centrale pour l'Industrie, co-introducer
Banque Rhône Alpes, co-introducer
Gilbert Dupont, stockbroker, market maker

> **SWORD Group is included in the Next Economy segment of the Euronext index and is committed to observing all the required standards**

> **the funds raised from the initial public offering provide Sword Group with the resources needed to finance its growth**

> about SWORD Group : created in December 2000 – chairman and founder: Jacques Mottard - 245 employees as at december 31, 2001
Listed on the Euronext Paris New Market on 13/03/2002
Euroclear France code: 18378 – FTSE sector: 972 – IT services

2001 consolidated sales: €23.093m, up 133% - 2001 pro forma sales: €25.418m, up 51%

2001 consolidated net profit: €2.321m, corresponding to a 10% net margin – 2001 pro forma net profit: €2.1m, corresponding to an 8.3% net margin at constant consolidation scope

Sword Group is an international IT services company specialised in four niche technologies and with solid partnerships with major companies.

• The group's activities are managed internationally via nine subsidiaries: **Sword SA - France** (export, EDM and GIS in France and new sources of growth), **Sword DDS Limited - UK** (Change Management), **Sword Inc - USA** (EDM and Change Management), **Sword DDS - France** (Change Management), **Fircosoft - France** (STP), **Sword Suisse** (four niche technologies), **Fircosoft Inc - USA** (STP), **Sword Consulting - France** (consulting), **Sword Creation Informatique - South Africa** (intellectual property).

Sword contacts

Jacques Mottard • chairman • 33 (0)4 72 85 37 40 • jmottard@sword-group.com
Coryne Nicq • deputy public relations director • 33 (0)4 72 86 02 86 • cnicq@sword-group.com
registered office: 9 avenue Charles de Gaulle - 69370 Saint Didier au Mont d'Or
press release available at www.sword-group.com and prline.com