



## *Joint Press Release*

### **ALBERT HEIJN AND NORBERT DENTRESSANGLE SHORTEN FRESH SUPPLY CHAIN**

**Zaandam, April 4, 2014 – Albert Heijn and Norbert Dentressangle have signed a memorandum of understanding for a new fresh centre. They have thus established a long-term partnership to realise a major Shared Fresh Centre (SFC) that will service more than 900 Albert Heijn stores. This new joint SFC for suppliers and Albert Heijn will be managed by Norbert Dentressangle. Its realisation will ensure that a large volume of fresh products will find their way to shelves more rapidly and efficiently. The SFC will be centrally located in Nieuwegein and is expected to become operational in Q2 2015.**

Last year, Albert Heijn announced its intention to speed up the supply chain for a large number of fresh products, including deli products, cheese, salads, meat, fish, convenience meals, fresh juices and pastries. Recent years have seen the number of Albert Heijn stores grow together with the number of fresh products they stock. In light of this development, the fresh supply chain needs to be optimised in order to create opportunities for future growth, and to have these products reach the stores in an even fresher state. For this reason, Albert Heijn decided last year to start working with Shared Fresh Centers (SFCs), to which suppliers can transport their products directly after production. This will reduce the number of stock points and transportation, and make it possible to deliver fresh products to stores sooner. In addition, stores will receive these products grouped according to category, making it easier for employees to stock shelves. Fast running fresh products, such as fruit and vegetables, have not been included in this project as their distribution processes have already been optimised.

In due course, the new SFCs will replace the current National Fresh Centres in Nieuwegein and Utrecht. Albert Heijn's employees at the National Fresh Centres have been promised job security and a social plan has been agreed with the unions

Norbert Dentressangle is a specialist in the field of logistics services and is well known to Albert Heijn, having operated the retailer's warehouses for frozen and non-food products for many years now. Norbert Dentressangle considers retail logistics as one of its core activities and its operations include more than 80 temperature-controlled distribution centres throughout Europe.

"The fresh products department is the pride of our stores," says Sander van der Laan, CEO of Albert Heijn. "We are pleased to be working with a very experienced logistics service provider. This collaboration will enable us to offer our customers even fresher products in our stores."

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CEO of Norbert Dentressangle, Hervé Montjotin, comments, "We are delighted that Albert Heijn has selected us as its fresh logistics partner for the SFC in Nieuwegein. It shows confidence in our strong expertise in both the retail industry sector and temperature-controlled logistics. This agreement is fully in line with our ambition to become a leading supply chain management partner that is able to collaborate with clients on their strategic development."

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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **About Albert Heijn**

Albert Heijn is the leading food retailer in the Netherlands and one of the country's best-known brands. Its mission is "to make the ordinary affordable and the extraordinary attainable" for customers.

Founded in 1887, Albert Heijn pioneered the development of the modern supermarket in the Netherlands. Its innovations range from the creation of the country's first self-service formats and the development of general merchandise as a grocery store category to the introduction of new and exciting products to store shelves that have since become mainstays of Dutch consumers.

Today the company continues to inspire consumers with unique products and services, including a range of own-brand products designed to meet the needs of specific types of customers.

Albert Heijn has around 900 stores. The company operates three main formats: the neighborhood grocery store, the larger Albert Heijn XL supermarket, and the *Albert Heijn to Go* convenience store.

[www.ahold.com](http://www.ahold.com)

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#### **About Norbert Dentressangle in the UK**

*With more than 14,600 employees across 195 sites, 1,800 vehicles, and around 2.5 million sq m of warehousing, Norbert Dentressangle is one of the UK's largest logistics and transport companies. Norbert Dentressangle offers a complete range of services including dedicated and shared-user warehousing and transport to both manufacturers and retailers, temperature controlled food logistics, reverse logistics, environmental operations management and freight forwarding.*

<http://www.norbert-dentressangle.co.uk/>

**About Norbert Dentressangle:**

Norbert Dentressangle is an international transport, logistics and freight forwarding company, with annual turnover of €4 billion in 2013. Norbert Dentressangle develops high added value solutions in its three sectors, across Europe, America and Asia, and places sustainable development at the heart of all its activities. It is established in 26 countries, employs 37,700 people and generates 60% of its turnover outside France. Norbert Dentressangle whose CEO is Hervé Montjotin is listed on the CAC Small & CAC All Tradable.

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[www.norbert-dentressangle.com](http://www.norbert-dentressangle.com)

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