

PRESS RELEASE

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### **Equilis teams up with Acteeum for its first project in Poland**

**One of the largest Belgian commercial and residential property developers launches its business in Poland. The first major Polish project by Equilis will be Galeria Chełm, a shopping centre developed as a joint venture with Acteeum Group.**

Equilis is also looking to develop a residential project in Warsaw. Since 2006 Equilis has already delivered 250,000 square metres of leasable space and nearly 580 housing units. One of the company's most famous projects in its home country is Docks Brussels, a commercial district opened in 2016. Equilis also has offices in France, Spain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal. In addition, the company has 125,000 sq m of leasable space and more than 2,100 residential units under construction or in the pipeline.

#### **It's time for Poland**

*"A retail scheme was an obvious choice for our first development in Poland. Equilis was built on commerce. Our decision to launch business in Poland is a result of the country's stable economic situation, which drives the prosperity of the real estate market. We were encouraged to make a presence in the shopping centre sector by growing consumption stimulated by the rise in wages and good customer moods as well as the potential of our location. We want to create a shopping destination that Chełm hasn't seen before,"* says Monika Woźniak-Zawioła, CEO Equilis Poland.

Galeria Chełm will be the first modern shopping centre in the only former provincial capital in Poland without a facility of this type. A total of 55 shops will take up 17,500 sq m of space. Shoppers will have access to a car park for 500 vehicles. With its convenient location, the centre may become the number one shopping destination for approx. 300,000 residents within a 45-minute driving distance, not only from Chełm and the neighbouring areas but also from the nearby Ukraine and Belarus.

#### **Equilis and Acteeum partnership**

The joint venture of Equilis and Acteeum Group will cost approximately EUR 30 mil.

*"Galeria Chełm is another project carried out by Acteeum as a joint venture with a large institutional or private investor. This time we are combining our expertise in the Polish shopping centre industry with the international experience of Equilis. Galeria Chełm is already 70% leased, which speaks to a very high demand for this type of development in this city,"* says Tomasz Szewczyk, Managing Partner, Acteeum Central Europe.

Acteeum has so far participated in seven retail projects with a total leasable area of 250,000 sq m, including VIVO! Stalowa Wola and VIVO! Krosno (in partnership with Immofinanz); Galeria Wołomin and Galeria Tomaszów (with NEPI Rockcastle); Galeria Solna in Inowrocław (developed in partnership with Libra Project and sold to EPP in 2017), and the expansion of Ogrrody in Elbląg and Sarni Stok in Bielsko-Biała (with CBRE Global Investors).

Construction of Galeria Chełm is expected to begin in 2018 and continue until the second half of 2019.

## **Equilis comes to Warsaw**

The portfolio of projects prepared by Equilis also includes a residential development at Bukowińska Street in Warsaw. The 11-storey building will contain 100 residential and commercial units, retail space on the ground floor and a two-storey underground car park. The investor is waiting for the completion of the administrative process and the building permit.

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### **About Equilis**

Equilis was founded in 2006 by Carl Mestdagh as a commercial real estate developer active in the Belgian market. Today, it develops and supports ambitious projects across a broad spectrum, from commercial and residential real estate, to offices, the rehabilitation of brownfields, residences for senior people or students, leisure sites, car parks, cultural and public spaces,... In total, Equilis has built 250.000 m<sup>2</sup> and 577 housing units and is currently developing another 125.000 m<sup>2</sup> and 2.109 housing units.

Equilis covers all aspects and trades and has diversified its activities and enlarged its portfolio to cover the European market. Equilis has offices in Belgium, France, Spain, the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Poland. New other countries will follow from 2018. [www.equilis.net](http://www.equilis.net)

### **O Acteeum Group**

Acteeum Group is a privately owned international company operating on the commercial and residential real estate market in Poland, undertaking the entire development process, starting from selecting suitable plots for development through the stage of design, construction, commercialization, management and sale of facilities.

The Acteeum approach to projects is based on extensive experience and knowledge of the Polish market and the development process. The company is a business partner of large institutional companies, including CBRE Global Investors, Immofinanz, NepiRockcastle as well as private investors and family businesses. Acteeum focuses on the development of large scale retail facilities and residential projects.

Acteeum manages a land portfolio and negotiates the purchase of further plots for the construction of shopping centers, retail parks, residential developments as well as mixed schemes.

Further information about Acteeum and its projects at: [www.acteeum.pl](http://www.acteeum.pl)

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