



# ARDIAN



## PRESS RELEASE

### SOLINA GROUP HAS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE SUPREMIA GRUP

**Bréal-sous-Montfort, March 27th 2017** - Solina, a leading European producer of savory ingredients for the food industry, announces that it has reached an agreement to complete the acquisition of Supremia Grup from Levente Hugo Bara, the founder and owner of the company. This agreement is subject to anti-trust authorities approval which is expected in the coming months.

Headquartered in Alba Lulia, Romania, Supremia is the leader in Romanian food ingredients and spices market, and is active in Eastern and Western Europe, as well as Scandinavia.

Since founding the company in 2000, Mr Bara has built the group into an established player with more than 300 employees and sales of €52.1m in 2016. Following the acquisition, the current management team will stay in the Company.

For Solina, the acquisition represents the latest step in its external growth strategy in the European food industry.

Laurent Weber, CEO, Solina Group, said: "Supremia is a great company which has seen strong growth over the past 10 years. It is led by an entrepreneurial team which has built an impressive portfolio of solutions and seasoning offers together with a state-of-the-art factory in Alba Lulia. The company has also developed a strategic spices supply chain as well as a spice treatment operation. We are very positive about the team and we are eager to start working with our new Solina members."

"This deal is a major step for us, particularly in Eastern Europe, and Supremia will become our regional center there. We are committed to expanding across Europe through a build-up strategy in all major markets, and this acquisition perfectly fits our network of service centers across the continent and beyond. Customers of both groups will benefit from what will be the largest R&D and production network in Europe."

"We are committed to remaining a highly innovative, service and customer-orientated, as well as an agile company. Being a larger size means that we will be able to make our procurement process more efficient, as well as offering unique growth opportunities for our preferred suppliers."

Levente Hugo Bara, Owner, Supremia Grup, said "Supremia is today an important player in the European food ingredients market showing very fast growth in the last 15 years based on an efficient management system and a strongly motivated team. I realize that maintaining such direction and growth alone as shareholder became more and more difficult and I decided a year ago to find the right partner for Supremia. Solina is the best partner for us and for the future of our organization, with interesting potential synergies and the combined group will become stronger and a more attractive partner for our customers."

The parties have agreed not to disclose the transaction value.

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## ABOUT SOLINA

We create Solutions for tomorrow's Food

Solina Group is a European leader of the savory ingredients European market. With 14 production facilities, multiple R&D centers and local sales offices, Solina's services feature personalized ingredient solutions for the food industry in the areas of Functionalities, Taste and Visual, and Nutritional solutions. Solina is also a major player in the butchers and food service markets. Headquartered in France, the Company has around 1,200 employees, direct presence in 17 countries and serves customers in more than 75 countries. The majority shareholder of Solina Group is Ardian, the independent private investment company. For further information, please see [www.solina-group.eu](http://www.solina-group.eu)

## ABOUT SUPREMIA

"Perfect ingredients !"

Supremia Grup is the leader in the Romanian food ingredients market since 2010 with more than 2,500 active clients on domestic and external markets. Supremia Grup provides innovative and dynamic performance to all its business partners and a personal and professional development environment for its employees, based on continuous improvement concept. Supremia Grup consists of Supremia ICS (based in Republic of Moldova), Tamaco Trading (based in Denmark) and Supremia Grup SRL (headquarter, based in Alba Iulia, Romania).

Supremia offers complete solutions for the food industry: blends, custom food ingredients blends, top quality natural spices imported from all over the world, auxiliary ingredients, natural and artificial casings, and selected wood chips. The company's impressive business partnership is based on specific solutions, specialized consultancy, respect for its customers and the continuous improvement performance of products and services. For further information, please see [www.supremia.ro](http://www.supremia.ro)

## ABOUT ARDIAN

Ardian, founded in 1996 and led by Dominique Senequier, is an independent private investment company with assets of US\$60bn managed or advised in Europe, North America and Asia. The company, which is majority-owned by its employees, keeps entrepreneurship at its heart and delivers investment performance to its global investors while fuelling growth in economies across the world. Ardian's investment process embodies three values: excellence, loyalty and entrepreneurship.

Ardian maintains a truly global network, with more than 450 employees working through twelve offices in Paris, London, Frankfurt, Milan, Madrid, Zurich, New York, San Francisco, Beijing, Singapore, Jersey, Luxembourg. The company offers its 580 investors a diversified choice of funds covering the full range of asset classes, including Ardian Funds of Funds (primary, early secondary and secondary), Ardian Private Debt, Ardian Buyout (including Ardian Mid Cap Buyout Europe & North America, Ardian Expansion, Ardian Growth and Ardian Co-Investment), Ardian Infrastructure, Ardian Real Estate and Ardian Mandates.

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

## LIST OF INVOLVED PARTIES

**Solina:** Eric Terré, Laurent Weber, Bertrand Vaz

**Supremia:** Levente Hugo Bara

**Ardian:** Bruno Ladrière, Mathieu Antonini, Daniel Setton, Emmanuel Miquel, Alexis Manet

**Seller advisers:** KPMG Romania, Bogdan Puiu Law Office

**Buyer advisers:** PwC and D&B