



PRESS RELEASE  
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## BARJANE and GSE Begin Work on the New Biocoop Logistical Platform in Noves

BARJANE is developing a new storage and logistics platform to be built by GSE for BioCoop, France's leading organic food retailer, in Noves, near Marseille. The foundation stone was laid on October 27, as part of the French national roundtable discussions on food, during a ceremony with all the project's stakeholders. This environmentally friendly building was designed jointly with its future users.



### BARJANE and GSE, partners of the reorganization of Biocoop's logistical setup

Boasting double-digit growth and already close to 500 stores across France (and some 50 openings this year), Biocoop is **France's leading organic food retailer**.

"To support this **strong growth**, it was essential to reorganize our logistical setup," explains Biocoop's Chief Logistics Officer Alain Carini, "by acquiring **modern, high-performance logistics platforms** for product storage, to supply all the stores in our network."

"**BARJANE, Biocoop and GSE have worked hand in hand for months**," says Julie Barlatier Prieuret, BARJANE's CEO. "We are delighted to develop two new projects for this committed player, in Ollainville, in the Paris region, as well as in Noves. We aim to design **environmentally friendly buildings** with both the ISO 14001 and the HQE Excellent certificates. They also must match Biocoop's logistical needs perfectly and foster the wellbeing of the site's workforce."

"GSE made recommendations to maximize the occupants' wellbeing, including an insulated cold storage section that enables natural light," adds Damien Vernier, GSE's Head of Development.



## A strategic location to serve the South of France

The **municipality of Noves, some 15 kilometers southeast of Avignon**, was selected for the project. **Located near major highways serving the South of France (A7 and A9) and the Avignon train station**, the site is perfectly adapted to Biocoop's road & rail transport strategy.

Certified ISO 14001 for its design and construction, and aiming for HQE Excellent certification, the 24,000 m<sup>2</sup> platform and its 3,200 m<sup>2</sup> of offices will boast a high level of performance, both technically and environmentally.

**"A 1.8 MWp rooftop solar farm will produce the equivalent of 1,000 people's electricity consumption,"** explains Hasna Berkia Guez, BARJANE's Head of Sustainable Development. **"A top-quality cold storage facility with reinforced insulation, a patio in the offices, natural light in the warehouse and alternative handling of rainwater are some of the other features designed for this exemplary site."**

The building, constructed by GSE, will be ready to welcome Biocoop's 250 employees and the company's produce in the summer of 2018.

## All stakeholders brought together for the launch of the works, on the occasion of the national roundtable on food

The **laying of the foundation stone acted as the official launch of the construction work on the new platform, in the presence of all the project's stakeholders**. The event was part of the **"Etats généraux de l'alimentation"**, which are bringing together all players in the French food industry to find solutions to generate more value for farmers, rethink production models and offer consumers healthier, safer and more sustainable food.

**These objectives are completely in line with the values of Biocoop**, which encourages the development of sustainable organic agriculture, with a key focus on the quality of products offered consumers and on respect for producers.

**"We are delighted to welcome the Biocoop project and its 250 employees in Noves,"** said Jean-Marc Martin-Teissere, Chairman of the Terre de Provence intercommunal alliance. **"It will breathe new life into the community and will act as a true engine for our other projects underway. In particular, it will complement the redeployment of the MIN market in Chateaurenard, an adjacent municipality, which in turn will considerably stimulate the local agriculture and economy."**

In a few months, the building will be delivered to Biocoop in a turnkey state. The works will comply with a **strict Green Construction code to ensure workers' safety and environmental friendliness**.

**ABOUT BARJANE:** BARJANE plans, develops and manages high-quality, turnkey buildings and business parks on behalf of its clients. BARJANE covers all aspects of the real estate projects, from scouting for properties to the project's design, the site's development, and the construction of the buildings or the construction & operation of solar farms. Applying a policy of high architectural, landscape and environmental quality, BARJANE combines reactivity and technical know-how, acting as its clients' single point of contact throughout the project's lifecycle.

See all BARJANE projects here <http://www.barjane.com/>



**ABOUT BIOCOOP:** As France's leading specialist organic food retailer for more than 30 years, Biocoop relies on a network of committed independent stakeholders – consumers, producers, employees and vendors – who all enjoy decision-making power, believe in collective intelligence and aim to produce and consume in new ways.

In 2016, this unique cooperative model demonstrated its relevance, with revenues up by 25% to €950 million. Biocoop had 431 stores in operation at end 2016 (including 52 open during the year) and 2,200 partnering producers\*.

A pioneer of organic food in France, Biocoop calls for “organic farming for all” and details its approach in a code applied by all stakeholders in the network. Biocoop also has three subsidiaries: STP (Société de Transport Biocoop); Biocoop Restauration and DEFIBIO, which provides financial support to partners (producers, processors, stores).

\*Figures at December 31, 2016

**A PROPOS DE GSE :** GSE is a major player in commercial property and the leader in the “turnkey” market. GSE oversees all design, construction and/or renovation work with a promise on price, deadlines and quality.

The company is managed by CEO Roland Paul. It employs 360 people and generated revenues of €480 million in 2016, carrying out a total of 70 projects.

GSE operates in Europe and China. The company has a network of 12 regional offices across France, making it the country's largest Global Contractor network.

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**ABOUT THE TERRE DE PROVENCE COMMUNAUTE D'AGGLOMERATION:** Created in 1996 and located north of Marseille, Terre de Provence is a *communauté d'agglomération* (intercommunal alliance) of 13 municipalities: Barbentane, Cabannes, Châteaurenard, Eyragues, Graveson, Maillane, Mollégès, Noves, Orgon, Plan d'Orgon, Rognonas, Saint-Andiol and Verquières.

The *communauté* totals 52,000 inhabitants and is marked by strong economic, historical and social ties. The alliance demonstrates the municipalities' will to join forces to deliver better services to the population and to roll out ambitious projects in the fields of economic development, affordable housing, infrastructure, transport, security, tourism and waste management. The redeployment of the MIN market, Avignon's southern bypass road, the Nord Alpilles high school: these are some of the projects that the *communauté d'agglomération* supports or runs directly.

Terre de Provence, an innovative community in a preserved natural setting.