

BSSI, EVA Group cybersecurity division, announces the acquisition of Lineon, and creates an independent French leader in cybersecurity consulting

Paris, September 19th 2019

BSSI, the cybersecurity division of EVA Group, strengthens its competitive edge with the acquisition of Lineon, a player specialized in consulting and technical expertise, with offices in Paris, Toulouse and London. This transaction, completed six months after B & Capital has taken an equity stake in EVA Group, matches EVA Group strategy of developing its cybersecurity business. More than 150 consultants now work at BSSI in France and overseas and the division is expected to account over € 18 million euros in revenues for FY2019E .

While an increasing number of cybersecurity incidents is recorded and more stringent regulations will be in force going forward, BSSI is at the core of its clients' needs to identify and reduce cyber risk, and notably: data theft, unavailability of IT systems, violation of data privacy and compliance to regulations.

With this add-on acquisition, BSSI reinforces its footprints in several sectors: Banking, Insurance, Luxury & Retail, Industry, Energy, Defense, etc.

Erwan Brouder, BSSI CEO, commented: *"BSSI and Lineon have developed complementary offerings in Cybersecurity. In addition, BSSI recently received the PASSI (Qualified Auditor for Security of IT Systems) award from the National Cybersecurity Agency of France. BSSI is now regarded as a leading player in Cybersecurity in France."*

Sébastien Michaud, CEO and co-founder of Lineon, said: *"I am eager to work with Erwan Brouder as we share a common vision of cybersecurity, that is to say a risk-based approach totally aligned with client security challenges and business continuity. Cybersecurity is a key element for companies to reach their targets. BSSI position as a cybersecurity pure player is stronger and new opportunities will arise for our customers and employees in France and overseas."*

Transaction details

EVA Group / BSSI: Erwan Brouder, Xavier Bruni, Jean-Victor Garnier, Robert Tran Van Lieu

B & Capital: Philippe Zurawski, Mikaël Schaller, Charles Gaudry

Advisors:

Financial due diligence: D'Ornano & Associés (Raphaëlle d'Ornano, Adrien d'Hauthuille)

Legal and social due diligence: D'Ornano & Associés (Raphaëlle d'Ornano, Lauriane Miel-Gautier)

Legal counsel:

- Structuring: Goodwin (Jérôme Jouhanneau, Chloé Vu Thien, Yoann Labbé)
- Tax: Goodwin (Marie-Laure Bruneel, Paul Fournière)
- Financing: Goodwin (Adrien Paturaud, Laurent Bonnet)

Banks

Coordinator and co-lead arranger: Caisse d'Epargne Ile-de-France (Cédric Alin, Arnaud Liegeois)

Co-lead arranger: LCL (Vladimir Coeuret)

Participants: BNP Paribas (Anne-Laure Herbinet, Denis Cardinali), HSBC (Jérôme Richaud, Carole Bordier)

Lineon: Sébastien Michaud, Sylvain Pilette, Olivier Allaire

Advisors:

Legal counsel: Pierre Grenier

About BSSI

<https://www.bssi.fr/>

BSSI is a consulting and technical expertise firm specialized in Cybersecurity founded in 2011 by Erwan Brouder. By promoting a comprehensive risk-based approach, BSSI addresses the business needs of a large number of companies. In 2014, BSSI launched its research and development activities. In 2015, BSSI becomes the cybersecurity division of EVA Group, providing a complete service offering: governance and assistance of CISO (chief information security officer), compliance management, IT architecture and cloud security, audit and pentests, certifying training, financial quantification of cyber risk, assistance for implementation of security operations center (SOC).

LinkedIn : <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bssi-conseil-&-audit>

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About Lineon

<https://www.lineon.fr/>

Lineon was founded in 2002 by three consultants specialized in Cybersecurity of networks and IT systems who contributed their collective twenty years of experience together with one vision: *"Successful business is supported by an efficient approach to Information Security."* This approach assumes the understanding of the constraints and risks to the business function which can be exploited through the tenants of Cyber Security: advice, engineering, operations and audit. Lineon has today a headcount of about fifty consultants who provide personalized solutions to address the business needs of a large number of companies and organizations: strategic consulting, operational assistance, security expertise and SOC expertise.

About B & Capital

<https://www.b-and-capital.com/>

B & Capital was set up in 2016 by a seasoned investment team. The firm stands in a unique position within the European small and mid-cap landscape, being the only private equity player to combine the skills of a talented investment team and a world-renowned strategy consulting firm. This offer combines private equity with the support capacity, the strong industry and sectorial knowledge and the international network of Roland Berger, a leading European consultancy firm.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/b-&-capital/>

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