

PRESS RELEASE

Valenciennes, April 29th 2025

CERTIFER strengthens its presence in Australia with the acquisition of SCG

CERTIFER, a subsidiary of the Apave Group and leader in certification and technical assistance in the field of guided transport, announces today the acquisition of Strategic Connections Group (SCG), a Melbourne-based engineering and compliance consultancy specialising in Project Engineering, System Engineering and Safety Assurance (SESA) for the Rail Industry.

Founded in 2009, SCG has built an excellent reputation for its expertise in engineering, supply chain management, project management, safety compliance and innovative business support services, primarily in the Rolling Stock and Operations & Maintenance domains. This new Melbourne arm is a key addition to CERTIFER's centre of excellence in rolling stock, reflecting SCG's deep expertise and leadership in rolling stock engineering, systems integration, and maintenance lifecycle support. SCG's proven track record of supporting clients with compliance requirements and resolving complex technical challenges perfectly aligns with CERTIFER mission to enhance safety, quality, and performance across transportation systems.

Raphael Cadars will continue to lead SCG as Managing Director, while SCG's-founder Alan Burns will support operations during the transition phase.

This acquisition follows Apave's recent purchase of IRISNDT (now Apave North America), also present in Australia, in late 2024 and, combined with CERTIFER existing operations in Australia, will bring the Group's presence in the country to approximately 120 employees. This acquisition also marks a significant expansion of the CERTIFER footprint in Australia, establishing a new office in Melbourne and adding over 20 highly skilled professionals to the team.

"This acquisition is a key strategic move which enhances our capabilities in the Australia's rail industry," said Nicolas Castres Saint Martin, CERTIFER Chairman. "SCG's technical expertise and established client relationships complement our existing services and will enable us to deliver even greater value to our clients across the Australian market."



From left to right :
Raphael Cadars, Eric Vanpeperstraete, Pierre Kadziola, Philippe Maillard, Alan Burns.

Philippe Maillard, CEO of Apave, stated: " This 27th acquisition by the Apave Group since the back end of 2020, is a key part of our ambitious strategic plan for 2025. It accelerates the development of our Group in Australia, a market of strategic importance, and reinforces our capabilities in the Rail sector."

Alan Burns/Raphael Cadars "We are truly excited to join the Apave Group! This strategic move represents a leap forward for our organisation. Joining CERTIFER will help us develop our business and benefit from the experience and reputation of a renowned player in the rail industry."

About CERTIFER

CERTIFER is the subsidiary of the Apave Group, specialised in railway testing, inspection and certification (CERTIFER) on the one hand, and engineering, consultancy and advisory services on the other hand (CERTIFER Solutions).

founded in 1997 , CERTIFER has nearly 350 employees and 25 locations worldwide, CERTIFER helps ensure safety, reliability, and quality in transportation and infrastructure projects globally.

About the Apave Group

Apave is an international group with over 150 years of experience in technical, human, environmental and digital risk management. An independent company with a turnover of €1.4 billion in 2024, Apave currently has 17,500 employees, 130 branches in France, 170 training sites in France and abroad and more than 20 testing and equipment qualification centres. Apave has an international presence in nearly 60 countries. Apave provides inspection, certification, technical training, testing and measurement and consulting services to private companies and public. For more information, visit www.apave.com

About Strategic Connections Group (SCG)

Established in 2009, Strategic Connections Group provides specialized engineering, supply chain, project management, and business support services, with a focus on the Rail and Defence industries. Through its agile processes, SCG's experienced team delivers solutions for a broad spectrum of projects and specific technical challenges.

Media Contact:

Mathieu LABENDZKI

CERTIFER Communication Manager

+336 08 18 42 97

mathieu.labendzki@certifer.eu