

WALLONIA AND BRUSSELS

wab  
MAGAZINE

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WAB 32 | WINTER 2021

**FOCUS**

The GreenWin Cluster  
10th Anniversary

**BIG PICTURE**

Pino Spitaleri  
against the grain

**GASTRONOMY**

Kenzo Li  
Top Young Roaster

# OUR DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER!

We're back again from Dubai, and while we're on this interplanetary journey, we really want to think bigger than ever. We Walloons have a tendency to hide our light under a bushel—and perhaps too often—so it's high time we grab the bull by the horns and show what we can do.

We may not have Mr Bond, but we are proud of Largo, a true modern-day hero, fighting for a fairer world. We can be proud of Pino Spitaleri's diamonds sparkling in the Gulf, and of companies such as like Cytomine, which works in the medical-imaging sector, and other hubs that the Japanese company Takeda is investing in, and even unicorns when it comes to predictive maintenance. I-care is becoming one of these companies, and you can read all about it in our Business article.

And no one's going to get left behind—that's a promise! Our entrepreneurs are standing firm in their local bases and with their partners, all the while working towards an ever-greener world, whether through their achievements, their projects or their responsibilities. Our GreenWin Cluster, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary, has many ideas for those who will be on the cutting edge, in terms of creation, renovation, and cradle-to-cradle design. Watch this space for inspiring examples.

And finally, where would we be without life's pleasures? Take the time to read about how sustainability ambassadors, our young artists who have won awards from Materia, the young chef Kenzo Li, or Alain Gilles happily bring together their ideas and their art, and the world they envision.

Let us take you to different trade fairs around the world, and join us in imagining bigger and better things!

*Pascale Delcomminette*

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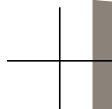
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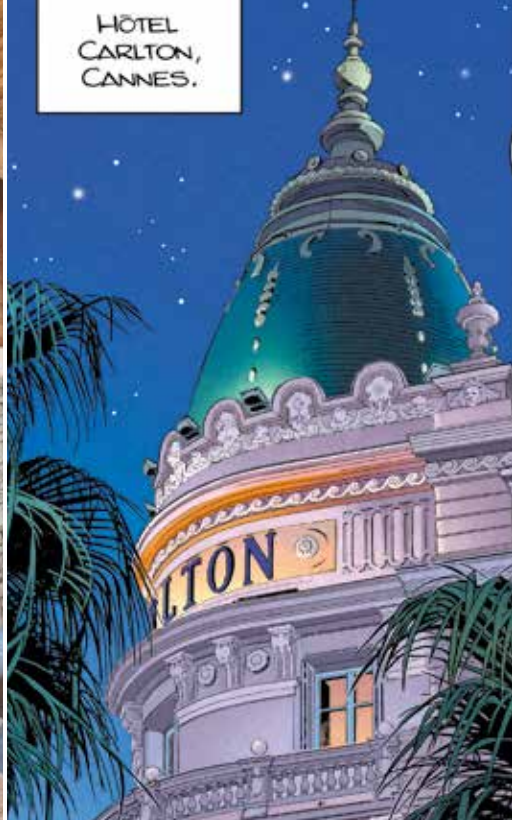
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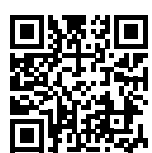
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**ONCODNA PARTNERS WITH SOPHIA GENETICS, A WORLD LEADER IN PRECISION MEDICINE**

Based in Gosselies, OncoDNA is a company specialising in precision medicine in oncology. Its goal is to personalise the treatment of each patient on the basis of the molecular abnormalities of their tumour, by developing biomarker tests and software adapted to sequencing. By partnering with SOPHiA GENETICS, OncoDNA can work with clinical laboratories to automatically translate complex sequenced data into targeted treatments, with the aim of accelerating the fight against cancer.

**A “BREXIT GATEWAY” IN WALLONIA: NOT A BANE, BUT A BOON!**



Euroterminal (ITLM Group) is increasingly positioning itself as a major player in the European transport and logistics sector. Already well established in Wallonia, the group responded to Brexit by creating a new 9,000 m<sup>2</sup> transit zone in Mouscron, a sort of outpost for the Calais transit zone. Every day this transit hub will receive dozens of trucks transporting freight between Europe and Great Britain. The drivers will go through customs transit formalities there, thus avoiding delays when embarking or disembarking in Calais.



### BERNARD SCHOBSENS, CHOCOLATIER OF THE YEAR

For the sixth year in a row, Gault & Millau presented its selection of the best chocolatiers in a handy gourmet guide covering 144 professionals from Belgium and Luxembourg.

Among the top 3 “Chocolatiers of the year”, we were delighted to discover Bernard Schobbens from Chaumont-Gistoux, Walloon Brabant. His pralines, chocolate shards and other fair-trade chocolate bars impressed the judges, and we cannot wait to try them!



© Bernard Schobbens



© 4m Group

### 4M GROUP / SELECTCOLOR: EXPORTS ON A GRAND SCALE

Based in Battice, Liège, 4m Group and its production subsidiary Selectcolor SA secured 3 orders for “major exports” to sub-Saharan Africa and Lebanon.

The Selectcolor production unit has exported several tonnes of manufactured resins to Ghana (5,000m<sup>2</sup> for the clean rooms of a pharmaceutical group), and Côte d’Ivoire and Lebanon (10,000m<sup>2</sup> and 5,000m<sup>2</sup>, respectively, for the bottling units of two major international groups). For two of these projects, Selectcolor also provided Belgian labour: the expertise of its installation teams is now recognised worldwide.

“Creating emotion with rare and unique pieces, and inviting individual customers into the workshop.”



# PINO SPITALERI

## AGAINST THE GRAIN

**Exceptionally talented jewellery designer Pino Spitaleri was driven by the desire to make his Sicilian nonno proud, and has been shaking up the jewellery world since his youth. Today, he works with the finest and most precious diamonds in the world.**

Born in Charleroi, the grandson of a miner, Pino Spitaleri discovered his love for precious stones early on. “As a teenager, I worked day and night to become the best. I wanted to make my nonno and my parents proud”, he recalled. He now collects rare stones and watches.

He trained at the IATA in Namur, then based himself in Luxembourg for four years, working with Schroeder, and then in London at the illustrious Graff workshops, before launching his own brand: Pino Workshop. “In 2014, my wife Aashia encouraged me to take the step. Within 24 hours, my order book was full!” He developed a microserti technique using a microscope and 3D scanner, and quickly

gained a reputation for his innovative approach (fair-trade stones, refined and recycled metals, bold designs). The results he achieves are stunning, clear-cut and precise. His workshop is growing at an impressive rate of 300% each year.

Through his passion and perseverance, Pino Spitaleri has acquired extremely rare pink diamonds, incredible 50+ carat black diamonds, untreated rubies and magnificent Mandarin Garnets. These were featured in the “Solar System” collection that was on display at the Belgian Pavilion for the first time during the 2020 Dubai World Expo.

PINO  
**SPITALERI**



© Dan Herendi

“I am determined and passionate”, Pino tells us. “I see my ideas through, and I like to swim against the tide.” His new concept, an 800-square-metre palace in the Jumeira district of Dubai, will include a workshop for gem-setting which focusses on the customer experience with unprecedented clarity. “I’m looking to create emotion and to work with rare and unique items. Individual customers are included from the first stages of design: the initial sketch, the choice of stones. They are then invited into the workshop to admire the work being done by our master setters and to see the jewel of their dreams take shape.” The Dubai workshop will open in January 2022.

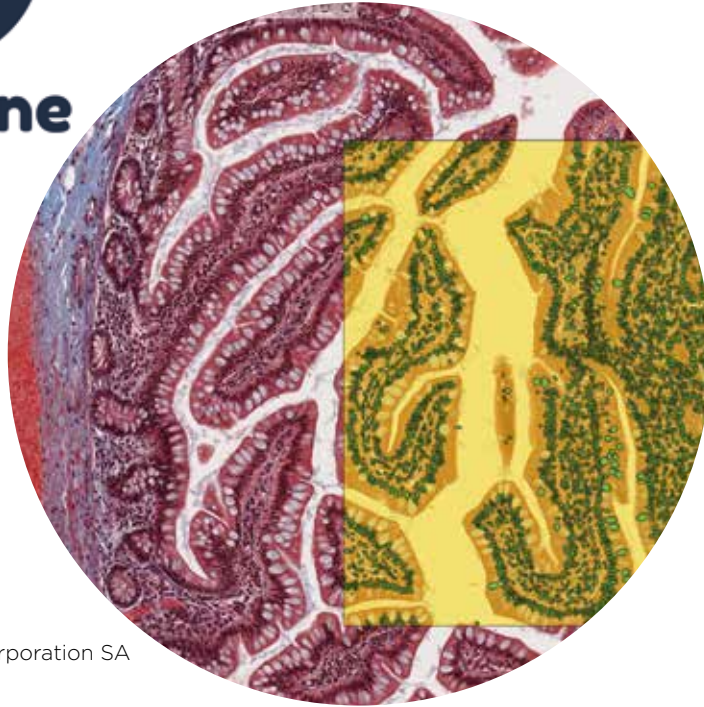
The father of two boys, Pino Spitaleri remains humble. “Belgium changed the destiny of my family and granted us a new start and a wonderful future. My grandfather immigrated from Sicily where, economically, things were extremely hard, but also where we had a strong family culture and traditions. My father was able to create new family traditions in Belgium for my family.” Now he is doing the same in Dubai, where he starts his day with an espresso, and spends his Fridays with the people who inspire him every day: his wife and children.



“BELGIUM CHANGED  
THE DESTINY OF MY FAMILY”



© Pino Spitaleri



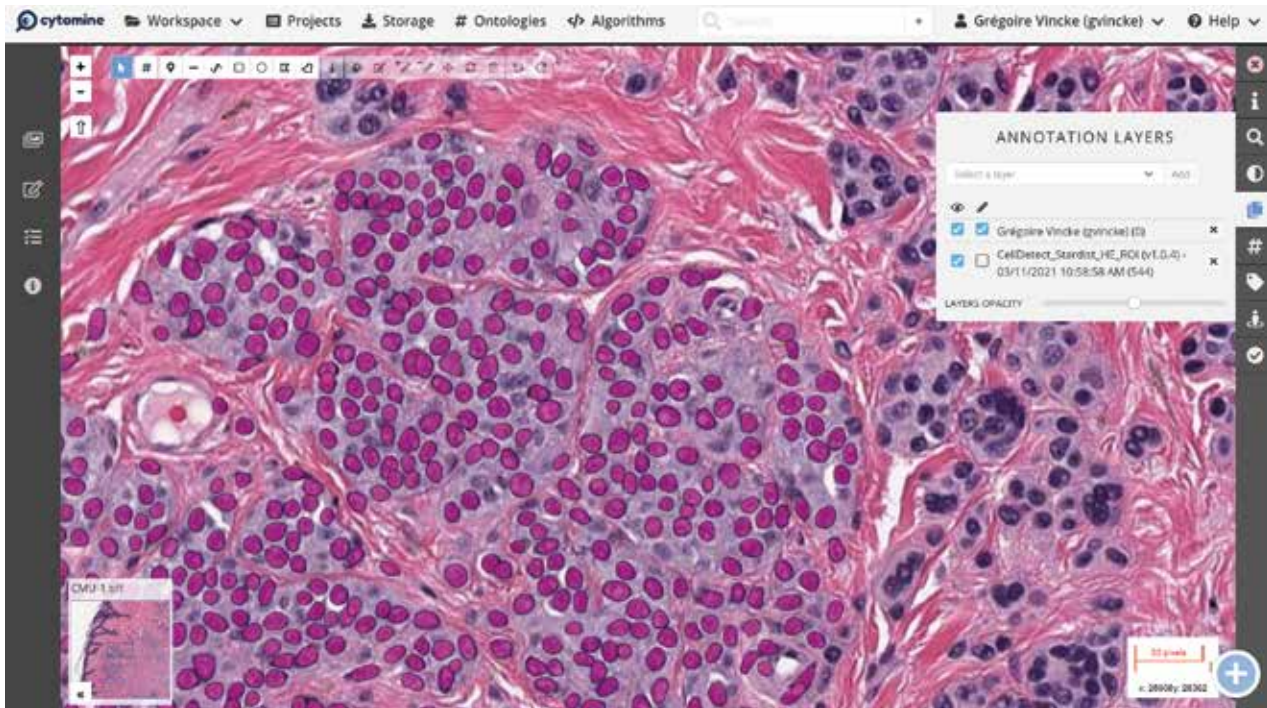
© Cytomine Corporation SA

## **CYTOMINE** VIRTUAL MICROSCOPE FROM LIEGE DETECTS CANCER CELLS

**Biomedical imaging is a revolutionary new way of examining cancerous samples. Cytomine, a Université de Liège spin-off, has become part of this adventure by developing a platform that allows for data mining.**

Unlike conventional medical imaging slides, digitised biopsy slides have an extremely sharp resolution, down to the cell, or to the nanometre per pixel. Given the size of the files, sharing is limited.

To solve this issue, Cytomine has developed a software platform that allows for the exploration, sharing and analysis of these new-generation images. "With our platform, you can navigate through huge pictures, several gigapixels' worth, via a web interface. It's the same kind of technology Google Maps uses: the big picture stays on the



© Cytomine Corporation SA

server, and each person, with their browser, can download the smaller tiles they need. This concept of a pyramid image allows us to create a virtual microscope”, explains Grégoire Vincke, Cytomine’s co-founder, marketing director and business development director.

The Liège-based spin-off targets three specific sectors: diagnosis, research, and university teaching. “We can replace a room of 50 microscopes and put out images with high educational value that can be viewed simultaneously. Four thousand people have already

connected to the same images during an open class”, continues Grégoire Vincke. Indeed, the platform is already in use at several North American and European universities (including the Université de Liège, the Université catholique de Louvain and the Université de Namur in Belgium).

The Liège-based solution, which has become a national platform for medical pathology in Norway, was also chosen as reference tool within a European project, involving 46 partners, that received 70 million euros in funding.

**Targeting the diagnostics sector**  
**The start-up is now moving into the diagnostics sector, and is working closely with leading hospitals such as the CHU Liège, Erasme Brussels and the CHU Rennes.**

## A STRATEGIC ROLE IN **TAKEDA**'S THERAPY PORTFOLIO

Takeda Belgium's new production line was launched at its Lessines site in late August 2021. It is dedicated to therapies for patients with complex and chronic diseases, including Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD). The company offers patients and healthcare professionals a wide portfolio of products in therapeutic areas that can be as challenging as oncology, gastroenterology and rare diseases. The new production line, equipped with cutting-edge digital technology, has created 100 local jobs, for an investment of €118m.



## EXCELLENCE IN IMMUNOGLOBULIN PURIFICATION

What shows the strategic role of the Lessines manufacturing site for the whole Takeda Pharmaceutical Company: with more than 1,200 employees, Lessines is the group's third-largest production site, and a centre of excellence for immunoglobulin purification.

The buildings on the site cover 18,000 m<sup>2</sup> and the plant operates 24/7. It is flexible, with packaging facilities for plasma-derived therapies and conditioning capacities for hematological products. The Lessines site also hosts an R&D unit focused on improving purification processes.

## FRUITFUL COLLABORATION

“Takeda Lessines has a legacy of nearly 50 years of continuous and sustained investment by local, state and federal governments. We will continue our efforts and look to the future with optimism, ready to partner with all those who share our ambition: to provide better care for patients, develop our people, and

preserve the planet”, says Geoffrey Pot, General Manager Operations at Takeda Lessines and Chair of bio.be, the Belgian federation representing companies that are active in the biotech and life sciences industry.

“Thanks to a fruitful collaboration among academia, public authorities and businesses, Belgium plays a strategic role in R&D, manufacturing and the distribution of new treatments”, Pot adds. Takeda can count on the dedication of Wallonia to provide top talents for the biotech sector. In early 2022, the region will start the construction of the European School of Biotechnology & Health Hub in Gosselies, to combat the staff shortages this rapidly expanding sector is facing.

## REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Takeda’s manufacturing site in Lessines is pioneering wastewater treatment in the pharmaceutical industry. The facility installed a water treatment system which will be used to provide more water for the drug production process,

thus cutting the consumption of water by up to 90% by 2023, and reducing the amount of chemicals needed for water treatment. And Geoffrey is keen to emphasise that that’s not all. We’ll also keep on investing so that we can reach our climate goals and cut the carbon emissions from all our activities in Lessines to zero.” Indeed, the site already boasts 8,000 solar panels.



**1,200+**



**8M+ vials packaged**



**5,000 batches released**



**80**



**€118m in 2021**



**Lessines**



© Benjamin Miesse - Bacasable



## I-CARE

### A WALLOON START-UP THAT IS NOW IN THE BIG LEAGUES



As one of the world's leading companies in its field, Montpellier-based I-care has signed "the world's largest-ever contract for predictive maintenance" with a food giant. Truly inspiring.





500+



26 facilities



Europe, Asia and the United States



35%



Mons

Since its founding in 2004, I-care has been targeting, worldwide, the process sector (pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals), the energy sector (nuclear, fossil fuels, and recyclables), the extraction sector, and original equipment manufacturers (OEM), with the aim of “setting a new standard of excellence in predictive maintenance, reliability, and process optimisation”. The company now has subsidiaries in France,

Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, the United States, Australia, and South Korea. By signing a contract worth over 10 million euros—the largest in its history—with an American leader in the food sector, it also stands to become the world leader in its field.

This achievement comes on top of the company’s being named Belgian Company of the Year 2020,

in recognition of “its innovative approach, its international orientation, its entrepreneurial spirit, its strategic vision, its financial health, and its tenacity in all circumstances.” I-care had already achieved 25% growth in 2020 despite the COVID-19 crisis. Its annual growth rate is now more than 35%. “This is a fine example of a bold company that anticipated one of the major needs of industrial companies”, notes Marie-Laure Moreau, EY’s Regional Managing Partner for Wallonia.

**Managing industrial risks by planning for the unexpected**

I-care has also passed the 500-employee mark worldwide: “Today, 530 employees work together for I-care. We have gone from hiring one person a week to hiring one person every working day since the beginning of July”, says Fabrice Brion, co-founder and CEO of I-care. “More than ever, we are meeting huge needs: thanks to our solutions, industrial machines around the world are safer, more productive, and more environmentally friendly.”





## THE GREENWIN CLUSTER

CELEBRATES  
ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!



As an accelerator of innovative and collaborative industrial projects, the Walloon competitiveness cluster is helping to make Walloon society more prosperous and environmentally responsible.





## A UNIFYING CLUSTER

“Since it was established in 2011, the objective of the cluster has been to stimulate the Walloon economy, to create stable, environmentally responsible, local and non-relocatable jobs within the region, to accelerate innovative and collaborative projects with an international focus, to facilitate access to funding, and to bring together players from the economic, scientific and academic sectors, as well as from the chemical, construction and Green Tech industries”, explained Françoise Scheepers, Marketing & Communication Manager of the GreenWin Cluster. “In recent years, we have also highlighted the importance of a solid network in order to build together, in harmony, and to obtain multiplier effects. Wallonia is full of talented people, with creative and bold mindsets, who are fully committed to the environmental, economic and digital transition. Simply by being aware of all this, we are already creating possibilities.”

## LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT: AN ESSENTIAL STEP

GreenWin imposes a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) on every project. This is a precautionary measure, encouraged by the European Commission, to counter any undesirable effects arising from innovation. ULiège’s Angélique Léonard, a specialist in the field, explained: “The aim of this method is to measure all the environmental impacts of a product or process throughout its life cycle. It is holistic and quantitative, and covers different criteria. How much CO<sub>2</sub> does my activity emit? What impact does the creation of my product have on the depletion of resources, on acidification, on fine particle emissions into the air, etc.?” The benefits of this study are twofold. LCA makes it possible to ask the right questions upfront, to choose the most environmentally responsible alternative, and to minimise the impact of a new product or process. This is what is known as eco-design. In addition, the quantified results can be an asset for environmental communication.



## BIG SUCCESSES...

**FINEO.** FINEO has developed a super-insulating glazing that can be installed in new windows as well as in stable older structures. More efficient than triple glazing in terms of thermal and sound insulation, and boasting unmatched elegance, FINEO glazing was designed using vacuum technology. This innovation brings together the construction and environmental sectors, and boasts an understated and efficient design. Thanks to the GreenWin Cluster project, technological options were tested, and choices were made with minimum disruption to the final process. This product is now distributed under the AGC brand, Renowindow.

**MEDIX.** Conceived, developed and coordinated by John Cockerill Balteau, together with other research partners, MEDIX has invented a way of treating macro and micro pharmaceutical pollutants that are found in the waste water of healthcare institutions and that eventually enter the environment. The concept is based on a small-scale double purification plant that biologically treats the polluted water at source. The consequences for the biotope are immediate. After just a few months, fauna and flora return to places from which it was thought some species had disappeared forever. This is a game-changing Walloon innovation, which efficiently combines chemistry and nature. It is modular and can be installed in urban environments.

**SCOT.** Piloted by GreenWin, this European project was the origin of the non-profit organisation CO<sub>2</sub> Value Europe. Founded in 2017, it has an international scope: it brings together German, French, Dutch, British, and, of course, Walloon industrial giants, who are committed to a greener future by doing their utmost to capture,

“We strongly believe that we must act. The ideas and concrete solutions exist. Our role is to highlight and support creative people with bold ideas. We are clear and proactive, not blindly optimistic. We are pragmatists.”

Véronique GRAFF,  
Managing Director GreenWin





© GreenWin ASBL 2021

transform and store the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by their activities. Aware of the environmental debt linked to their activities, these business leaders are aiming to meet, or even surpass, the 2025 objectives set by Europe. Wallonia is rapidly becoming a pioneer in CO<sub>2</sub> transformation.

## ...AND PROMISING INITIATIVES

**RENO+.** At a time when the construction sector is under fire for its environmental impact, such as from its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, from its consumption of raw materials, and from its production of waste, RENO+ is a landmark initiative that aims to triple, by 2030, the rate at which Wallonia's housing stock is renewed, and to create stable local employment. Reuse, adapt and rationalise are the keywords of this project, which was set up with the support of the Belgian Building Research Institute (BBRI) and the Confédération Construction Wallonne (CCW). RENO+ intends to scale up projects to make life easier for contractors, to make energy-efficient solutions available, and to rethink housing in terms of well-being and customisation. Eco-design is also key here.

**HECO2.** Another initiative, developed in partnership with MecaTech and Tweed with the goal of encouraging polluting industrial companies to change their energy systems while protecting jobs in the region. Switching away from fossil fuels to electricity, green hydrogen, etc., improving competitiveness and, above all, rehabilitating former industrial sites are the main objectives. The project goes so far as to recover the firedamp present in disused mines in order to transform and reuse it, thus turning a problem into an asset and launching a new virtuous cycle. This initiative will have global consequences, and is especially significant for the mining sector.



# RENO+

Projet structurant  
pour une transition

économique/sociétale/environnementale  
de la Wallonie  
par la rénovation





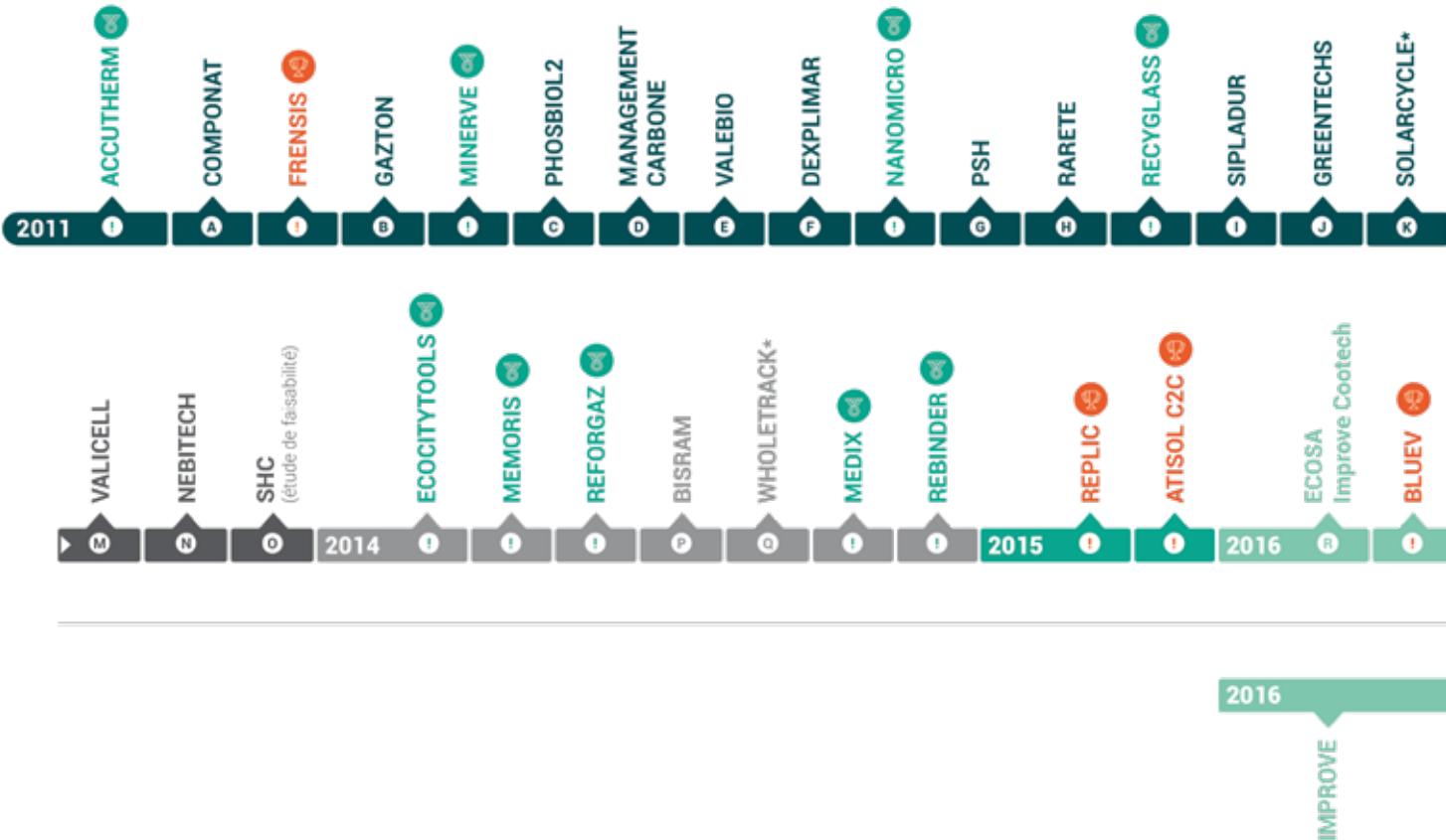
3 cross-functional industrial sectors

- CHEMICAL**
- CONSTRUCTION**
- ENVIRONMENT**

3 calls for projects per year

## GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS!

“The pledges we make over the next 10 years”, Françoise tells us, “will be based on four areas: carbon neutrality, sustainable construction, green chemistry and resource recovery. They also support the circular economy, digitisation 5.0 (which puts people at the heart of efforts to meet the issues and challenges involved) and the showcasing of bold and committed Walloon minds. In the aftermath of the floods that ravaged our beautiful region, adapting to climate risks is also an essential and urgent challenge. In short, there is no shortage of projects!”



The GreenWin Cluster in a few figures\*

- 80 % SMEs
- 209 members
- 68 projects
- 64% added value growth rate
- 85 000 direct jobs
- 160 000 indirect jobs
- €15B exports (36% Walloon companies)

\* Dated 15/11/2021



## WELLNESS IN THE WOODS

Wallonia is full of cosy and intimate places to stay, where you can enjoy a mid-winter retreat.

### Chambre d'hôte (bed and breakfast)

You'll find *La Couette de l'Ours* discreetly tucked away in the Liège countryside. This 133 m<sup>2</sup> wood cottage, with a private indoor heated swimming pool, has been renovated with sustainable materials, and showcases local services and products.

### Chalets

*In the Woods* has three wellness chalets with different atmospheres and facilities, nestled in the Namur woodlands. Choose between the Chalet Scandinave, the Chalet Tropical and the Chalet Boréal.

### Out-of-the-ordinary accommodation

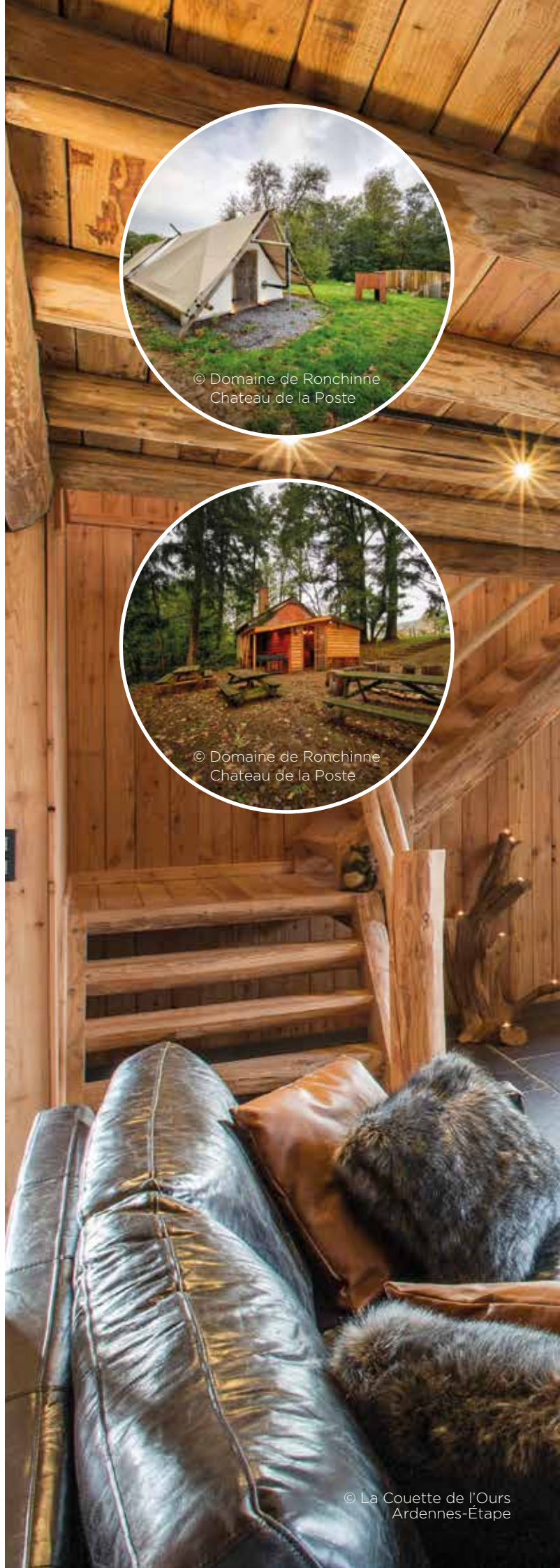
Not far from Namur, Le Domaine de Ronchinne also has its share of unusual accommodation, such as a loft cube, a hut and a cabin. Guests have access to an excellent outdoor wellness space, which opened in early 2020.



© Domaine de Ronchinne  
Chateau de la Poste



© Domaine de Ronchinne  
Chateau de la Poste



© La Couette de l'Ours  
Ardennes-Étape





# BELGIAN GASTRONOMY

## A NEW STAR IS BORN

The young chef of the restaurant La Table de Demain in Namur is starting to reap the benefits of his hard work. After two years of preparation, Kenzo Li (22) won second place at the international competition “Jeunes Rôtisseurs” (Young Roasters) in Paris last September, out of young chefs from the 75 countries taking part.



Kenzo Li (R) and owner of La Table de Demain  
Guillaume Gersdorff

“To achieve such results, you have to gather a team around you. I’m lucky I have great professionals who coach me in patisserie, for example, which made a difference at the national competition earlier on, where I finished first.” Li started his journey to stardom a long time ago: instead of following the path to catering college, he went straight into an apprenticeship. “At 15, you already have the life of a cook, with a five-working day week for only two days at school. As a result, you are a seasoned cook when others are just starting their career.” He worked at a couple of starred restaurants in Belgium to learn his craft, such as Le Chalet de la Forêt (Brussels) and L’Eau Vive (Arbre).

Every month, the chef prepares a unique menu, inspired by highly praised Nordic cuisine – Norway won the 2020 and the 2021 competition in Paris – with an Asian touch, a nod to his roots. Hence his cuisine focuses on well-seasoned, perfectly cooked fresh, local and seasonal ingredients, sometimes from the restaurant’s own vegetable garden: “We have great food producers here in Wallonia, all very local.”

Li uses social networks a lot to promote his creations, and also to learn more from his peers. His motto: “Work comes ahead of talent.”







# WALLONIA.BE SUSTAINABILITY BRAND AMBASSADORS FOR 2021

AWEX and the WBI recognise Wallonia.be ambassadors for their personal or professional projects focused on sustainable development. The winners have been selected for their local impact, their sense of innovation and communication, and their alignment with at least one of the 17 United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

## Honourable Mention: Laetitia De Boeck,

for her work building bridges between Wallonia and communities in need. Laetitia De Boeck – Kizizié, designated Woman of Peace in 2016, helps provide clothes, textbooks and toys for children, and healthcare for pregnant women in communities in need. Through her “Coaching Academy” association, she sets up contacts between young workers from the developing world and companies in Wallonia and Brussels.



© Marjorie Gilen – Théâtre de Liège

## Solenn Koç

For her project “Towards a sustainable and aspirational future, for all”, as an eco-advisor at the Théâtre de Liège, Solenn Koç develops initiatives among other things to help make cultural content more accessible to a wide audience, to strengthen multiculturalism as part of the fight against discrimination, to promote accessibility for disabled people, and to help realise the ecological transition of the theatre itself.



© Sébastien Schellen

## Sébastien Schellen

As head of the “Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency” initiative at De Smet Engineers & Contractors (DSEC), Sébastien Schellen implements innovative solutions to accelerate the energy transition within the industry. DSEC teams are working hard to export Walloon know-how internationally when it comes to alternative energies, operational excellence, reducing carbon footprint and consumption of resources, for instance.



## Yves van den Branden,

for his involvement with the non-profit organisation Casa for life. More than 30 years after the establishment of a health centre at Ziguinchor, in Senegal, Yves van den Branden is still committed to helping local people in need, in line with the UN’s sustainable development goals. Proudly representing Wallonia abroad, he fights to improve conditions in many areas, including maternity care, healthcare, disability, access to water, and market gardening.

# THE MATERIA PRIZE



© Emma Cogné

## Emma Cogné, repurposing textiles

Emma Cogné, a graduate of La Cambre, reinvents the use of material to connect people with their environment and reveal new perspectives on space.

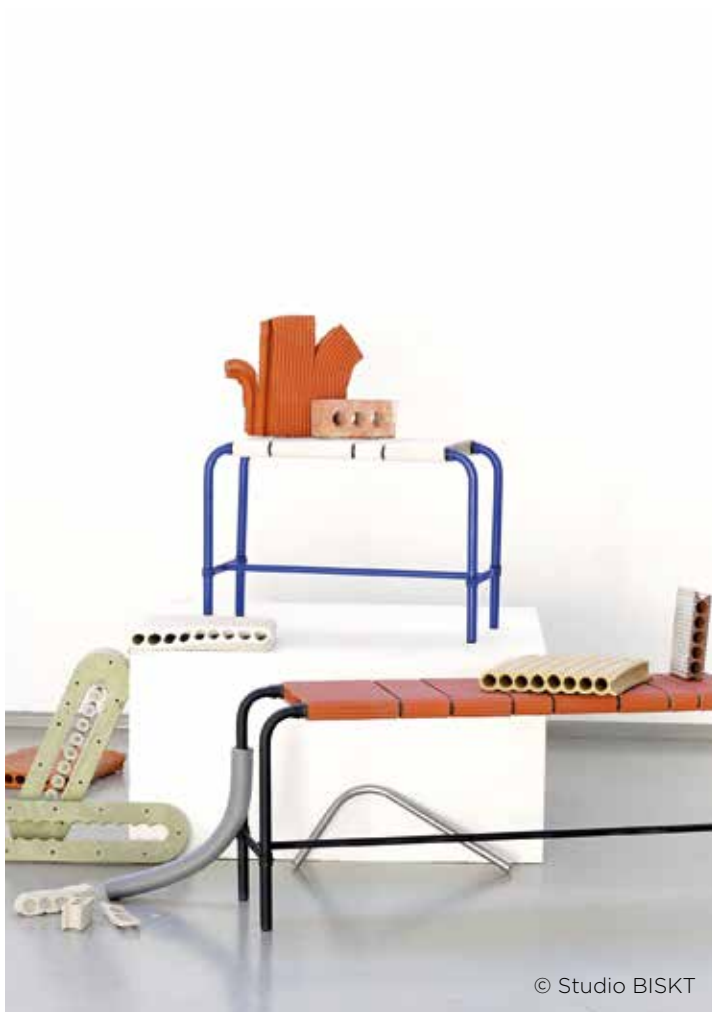


© Julien Renault

## PaulinePlusLuis, the reminiscence of objects

The creative energy of this Brussels duo distills poetry and dreams in everyday objects, lighting objects in particular, by drawing on the collective imagination.

The Materia prize is awarded annually to young artists of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation of Belgium in recognition of their work. The 2020 award highlighted four designers with a responsible and sustainable approach.



© Studio BISKT

### Studio Biskt, ceramics between art and design

At Studio Biskt, ceramic designs inspired by architecture are created both manually and through the use of industrial processes.



© Tim Van de Velde

### Studio Plastique, bridging dimensions

These two alumni of the Eindhoven Design Academy transform materials to imagine brighter futures.



**INSPIRATION:**A LIMITED EDITION  
BELGIAN-ITALIAN  
OXFORD

Brussels-based designer Alain Gilles has revisited a great classic of the Tuscan company Fratelli Rossetti, the Oxford shoe, and has produced a perfect combination of traditional and innovation. This international collaboration has produced two models for men and two for women, all distinguished by their round heel and structured geometric patterns. The capsule collection was presented in Milan at the Design at your Feet event, with support from the Belgium is Design project.



Largo Winch, modern-day hero and rebellious heir, was 26 when he found himself at the head of a group worth more than 10 billion dollars.

He uncovers countless conspiracies in the course of adventures on every continent and, with courage and panache, exposes the excesses of economic and financial interests.



11 million albums sold

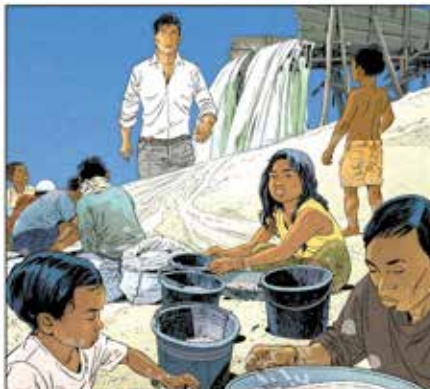


20 languages



290,000+ copies of Volume 23

La frontière de la nuit, (The Frontier of the Night), 2021



# LARGO WINCH

## INTERNATIONAL HERO

Originally created by Jean Van Hamme, then scripted by Eric Giacometti, but still illustrated by Philippe Francq, Largo offers a form of escapism, of course, but he also raises awareness about current issues. In this new album, the 23rd, Largo categorically rejects the exploitation of children in a tin mine in Indonesia, part of his ageing group's mining interests, by closing it down. During a meeting with a billionaire industrialist, a space tourism pioneer, he learns about a completely new sector, not to mention the Asteria, a space shuttle. His curiosity gets the better of him and he takes off in the shuttle, only to get lost, at The Frontier of the Night...

The drawback of these albums is that they are made following a two-part format, and several months separate the beginning and the end of each story. To help tide us over, the Editions Dupuis publishing house focuses on the accuracy of the information, the illustrations, the humour, the antics of Simon—the lifelong friend—or the romantic encounters which punctuate the character's lie without ever tying him down, thus leaving him free from worldly commitments. Also, each adventure is different, although some there are recurring elements. There are very few Belgians who don't own the whole series!

Bandes dessinées or BD are a genre of particularly Belgian comics, which are well known worldwide. This particular series has been a real bestseller, giving rise to merchandising, a TV series in France, video games, an online role-playing game, board games and even two films starring Tomer Sisley. It has also been translated into several languages. Largo Winch is a real phenomenon, one of the most popular contemporary heroes of the art form, and the fact that he has been around for thirty years proves it. Tintin would have certainly interviewed this Largo character...





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**Liège: 2022–2023**

La Boverie museum in Liège is launching the 2022–2023 season with a programme centred on collections. An exhibition planned for Autumn 2022 will be devoted to the world of the Rothschilds, in particular that of some of the women in the family. The second major exhibition, in spring 2023, will feature a selection of contemporary works of art from private collections in the Liège region.

**CES Las Vegas: 5–8 January 2022**

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world's largest show dedicated to innovation, is set to return to Las Vegas from 5–8 January. This will once again be an in-person event, but with the option of attending remotely. At least 1,800 companies have already confirmed that they will be there, including about 15 Walloon start-ups and SMEs.



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**Integrated Systems Europe Barcelona trade show: 1-4 February 2022**

Integrated Systems Europe (ISE) is the world's largest audiovisual systems integration trade show. It will offer its unique showcase of technologies and solutions for commercial and residential applications, from 1 to 4 February at the Fira de Barcelona. AWEX will be there for the first time, with 8 especially enthusiastic Walloon companies.

**United Kingdom: economic mission chaired by HRH Princess Astrid, 6–10 March 2022**

Agribusiness, life sciences, cleantech and arbitration will be at the centre of this economic mission, which will take place in the London-Oxford-Cambridge triangle. Organised within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the Belgian federal authority and the regions, this joint mission will be chaired by HRH Princess Astrid, Representative of His Majesty the King.



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**MIPIM in Cannes: 15–18 March 2022**

Marché international des professionnels de l'immobilier (MIPIM), an event which brings together participants from a hundred countries, will be attended by major players in international real estate, including those running major development projects. A major event for anyone keeping their ear to the ground in international real estate.

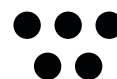
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- ✓ **Circular materials** eco-design, industrial symbiosis, encouraging the reuse and repair of these materials within the economy, recycling innovation, etc.
- ✓ Innovations for **enhanced health** biotechnologies, medical equipment, eHealth, mHealth, silver economy, prevention, etc.
- ✓ Innovations for agile and safe **design** and **production methods** (IoT, 3D printing)
- ✓ Sustainable **energy** systems and **housing**
- ✓ **Agri-food** chains of the future and innovative management of the **environment**

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