

# Press release

## **Partena Professional entrusts the management of its IBM Mainframe and AS/400 to NRB for 4 more years**

Herstal, 29 January 2020

**Brussels-based HR services group Partena Professional, which employs 1,900 people, has extended its contract with NRB for the outsourcing of its IBM Mainframe and AS/400 by four years.**

The IBM Mainframe is the central computer system for the activities of Partena Professional's Social Secretariat: it hosts, among other things, their payroll engine that calculates salaries. The outsourcing of the mainframe from Partena Professional to NRB goes back to 2011.

In 2012, Partena merged with HDP, a social secretariat in Ghent. In October 2016, Partena Professional also decided to entrust NRB with the management of their central system on AS/400.

At the end of 2018, Partena Professional entrusts NRB with the hosting and operational management of the rest of its ICT environments, i.e. its "distributed" systems, of about 640 servers.

On 5 December 2019, Partena Professional and NRB signed the extension of the two Mainframe and AS/400 contracts for a further four years until 2024.

### **NRB Mainframe Center**

NRB is – after IBM – the most important mainframe centre in Belgium. In 2020, NRB has a total capacity of 25,000 MIPS. Its latest-generation IBM Mainframes (z14 today and z15 in a couple of months) are hosted in its own data centers in Herstal and Villers-le-Bouillet (at a distance of 30 km). The two data centres are connected by optical fibre, fully redundant, and meet Tier 3+ standards according to the Uptime Institute. Real-time mainframe replication ensures that no data can be lost and customers can continue working without interruption, even in the event of a disaster at either site. NRB's Mainframe team consists of more than 150 experts: developers, architects, DBAs, system specialists and production managers.

"The collaboration between NRB and Partena Professional has become a solid partnership," confirms Pierre-François Declercq, CIO of Partena Professional. "The relationship between the two companies is one of trust and continuity. Not only do we rely on NRB's support and advice, but because of its scale – particularly in the Mainframe world – and its privileged partnership with IBM, we have access to technology, expertise and conditions that we would never have had access to as a "small" Mainframe user."

### **Modernisation Project**

Partena Professional has taken the strategic decision to modernise its mainframe payroll engine through extensive use of API techniques and openness to modern technologies used in customer

tools. This modernisation is being carried out with the support of NRB for the following activities; among others: the choice of tools on the mainframe side and support for their implementation, as well as support for the development teams. Thanks to this modernisation, the applications used by Partena Professional customers can access mainframe transactions and data in a strictly secure environment.

"Partena Professional has been a strategic client of NRB for about 10 years," confirms Pascal Laffineur, CEO of the NRB Group. "Not only because it is an important player in the social sector, but also because it sets an example by opting for mainframe continuity and reliability for its core business, while calling on our expertise for its modernisation. The result combines the best of both worlds: a robust, waterproof system that takes full advantage of new digital possibilities such as the cloud, AI and IOT."

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Note to the editors: photos of the IBM mainframe z15, Pierre-François Declercq (CIO of Partena Professional), Pascal Laffineur (CEO of the NRB Group) and the Partena Professional logo can be downloaded via [this link](#).

### **About the NRB Group**

With a consolidated turnover of 333 million euros and more than 2,000 employees, the NRB Group is now positioned in the top 3 of the ICT sector in Belgium.

NRB's mission is to provide optimal, end-to-end IT solutions and services in a close, long-term partnership with its public and private sector clients to simplify technological, economic and societal transformation.

In this context, NRB offers a wide range of IT services that are structured around four main areas: consultancy, software, infrastructure & cloud, and managed staffing.

While NRB targets our country's main sectors – the public and social sector, energy and utilities, the financial sector and industry – its subsidiaries offer sector-specific solutions while benefiting from the Group's size, ICT infrastructure and other support.

Trasys International aims at European and international institutions and companies. Xperthis provides specialised IT solutions to the healthcare sector. Cevi, Logins and Civadis offer ICT products and services dedicated to the local public sector. Afelio is a specialist in custom development of new generation web and mobile applications. SIGGIS provides GIS (geographic information systems) software and consulting services mainly to the public sector and utilities. Finally, UCON is mainly active in the area of SAP IS-U and FI-CA, also for utilities.

More information is available on the internet: [www.nrb.be](http://www.nrb.be)

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### **About Partena Professional**

Partena Professional is a service group that helps and supports start-ups, entrepreneurs and companies with all formalities related to the Belgian social security administration, such as starting their activity and calculating salaries, and offers them advice and assistance in accordance with their social status in all phases of their professional life.

In practice, the activities cover:

- o Starting, changing and terminating a business
- o Social security for the self-employed
- o Payroll and administrative tasks
- o Payroll and Human Resources Management Software
- o Legal advice, comp & ben, HR softskills

More than 60,000 employers and 142,000 self-employed call on our expertise. 1,900 employees are at the service of customers.

More information about Partena Professional is available at <http://www.partena-professional.be/>

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