

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **HERMÈS OPENS ITS 19TH LEATHER WORKSHOP IN SAINT-VINCENT-DE-PAUL (GIRONDE) ULTIMATELY CREATING 260 JOBS AND REASSERTING ITS REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN FRANCE**

#### **A regionally integrated artisanal model**

Ever since the house was established in 1837, Hermès has always sought to preserve the artisanal dimension of its manufacturing, which is a source of durability, creativity, agility and innovation.

The Maroquinerie de Guyenne, Hermès' first production site in the French department of Gironde, perpetuates the house's artisanal and human culture as well as its spirit of passing on Hermès' exceptional know-how. In order to promote training, mentoring and support, nearly one-third of its employees have come from other Group sites or other métiers within the house.

With this new leather workshop, Hermès is strengthening its role as a socially responsible company, creating jobs of excellence and reaffirming its intention to make a sustainable contribution to the region's development.

#### **Training for a skilled profession**

Deeply attached to building long-term relations with all local partners, Hermès implements a recruitment and training strategy in close collaboration with the Pôle Emploi employment service, the Greta adult education service and the Charles Péguy high school in Eysines. The learning of a craft, a training sanctioned by a national diploma in leatherwork (CAP Maroquinerie), combined with the versatility and employability, all ensure the creation of high-quality and long-lasting jobs. At the manufacture, the cutting and table work métiers are developed with the aim of fostering multiple skills in these two areas of know-how.

#### **Social and environmental commitments**

Designed by Bayonne-based architect Patrick Arotcharen, whose work is profoundly influenced by the relationship between nature, climate and architecture, the Maroquinerie de Guyenne – a 140-metre-long building in wood and concrete – meets the house's sustainable development criteria and expresses its commitment to "making beautiful things in beautiful places". The eight ateliers that house the artisans are all bathed in natural northern light, which is the most conducive to the precise execution of artisanal gestures.

By rehabilitating a 5.6-hectare former backfill storage site, Hermès is contributing to the region's development while promoting biodiversity. More than one hundred trees have been planted, helping to completely re-green the site to create an inviting garden for employees to enjoy. In order to manage energy consumption, the site is equipped with 2,250 m<sup>2</sup> of solar panels, which supply over 40% of electricity consumed, supplemented by all-LED lighting. The site is also

equipped with a rainwater recovery system that is used for sanitation facilities and to water the green spaces.

Since 2010, Hermès has opened nine leather workshops in France, bringing the number of saddler-leatherworkers employed by the group to more than 4,000.

Three other new leather workshops are in the pipeline, located in Louviers (Eure), Tournes (Ardennes) and Riom (Puy-de Dôme), for which recruitment and training are ongoing.

Since 1837, Hermès has remained faithful to its artisan model and its humanist values. The freedom to create, the constant search for beautiful materials, the transmission of savoir-faire of excellence, and the aesthetic of functionality all forge the singularity of Hermès, a house of objects created to last. An independent, family owned company, Hermès is dedicated to keeping the majority of its production in France through its 51 workshops and production sites and to developing its network more than 300 stores in 45 countries. The group employs almost 17,000 people worldwide, including nearly 10,600 in France, among whom more than 5,600 are craftsmen\*. Axel Dumas, a sixth-generation family member, has been Hermès CEO since 2013.

Founded in 2008, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès supports projects in the areas of artistic creation, training and the transmission of savoir-faire, biodiversity, and the preservation of the environment.

*\* As of 30 June 2021*

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