

Press Release

Addis Ababa, 4 December 2007

Cotecna inaugurates activities in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa: On December 4, 2007, Cotecna, one of the world's leading trade inspection, security and certification companies, inaugurated the start of its Ethiopian activities.

In the presence of Government officials, a representative of the Swiss Embassy, representatives of International Organizations, members of the private sector and prominent national media, senior Cotecna management presented the company's services and described the added value that Cotecna can bring to the government and to the economic sectors of the country.

Cotecna, a Swiss company, has years of experience in trade surveillance, trade facilitation and trade security services for governments and presently has 15 government contracts throughout the world. It operates a total of 16 different scanners that includes fixed, mobile, and pallet scanners. Cotecna also provides consultancy services involving 13 scanners that belong to different clients throughout the world. Cotecna's expertise in institutional inspection services includes Destination Inspection, Capacity building, Computerized Risk Management, Customs Valuation and Verification of Origin.

Cotecna, recognised for its quality and integrity, has expanded its global Commercial activities' network significantly over the past three years. With specialists and laboratories situated in key locations around the globe, the company's inspection services help international customers preserve the value and integrity of their products.

Cotecna offers its services to all market segments of the agricultural sector – from coffee, grains, pulses, oilseeds, and feedstuffs to liquid cargoes, sugar, fibers, fruit, fertilizers. Recognising the importance of the national Ethiopian coffee industry, Cotecna will offer the possibility for Ethiopian farmers to raise the quality of their produce and add value to the industry through the setting up of domestic inspection, testing and quality control services.

Alpha Sy, Vice President, Africa said, "With its many years of experience, Cotecna is undeniably the global leader in [computerized risk management](#) and [scanning services](#). We have also over the years, built up unique technical and operational expertise in the field of agricultural inspection, testing and certification. We are excited by the prospect of actively participating in the improvement of the national Ethiopian coffee industry through our added-value services."

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Founded in Switzerland in 1974, the COTECNA Group offers a wide range of trade facilitation services, trade security services and quality certification standards. Cotecna is a pioneer in areas such as risk management, destination inspection and scanner integration projects and also offers Customs modernization programmes, Customs valuation assistance, trade security solutions and commercial inspections. For a full description of our services, please visit www.cotecna.com. The Cotecna Group has a combined workforce of about 4,000 employees and agents in close to 100 offices and holds 15 government inspection contracts.