Ekinops Announces Framework Agreement with Proximus to deploy a nationwide high-speed optical network across Belgium

PRESS RELEASE

PARIS, July 2, 2026 – EKINOPS (Euronext Paris – FR0011466069 – EKI), a leading provider of optical networking, connectivity and SASE cybersecurity solutions for telecommunications operators and enterprises, today announces the signing of a framework agreement with Proximus, the leading Belgian Tier-1 telecom operator, awarding Ekinops a 10-year supplier contract.

This agreement marks the final step following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) announced in March. This major strategic project, named NEURON, which stands for Next generation Enhanced Uniform Reliable Optical Network, covers Ekinops' supply of WDM-based optical network equipment and services to deploy a nationwide high-speed optical network across Belgium comprising of over 600 sites.

Proximus has chosen the Ekinops WDM platform for its ability to optimize any types of traffic rate from ultra-low to very high client speeds in a chassis already compatible for 1.6T (terabits per second) rate. Under the long-term agreement containing commitments for future evolutions, Ekinops will provide telecom infrastructure systems supporting 800 Gbit/s (gigabits per second) optical capacity, as well as a broad range of ROADMs (reconfigurable optical add-drop multiplexers) for Proximus' backbone and metro networks. Ekinops will also provide its network management solution, Celestis NMS, together with associated software and professional services, to support Proximus in building its next-generation, high-performance optical network.

"We have been impressed by the Ekinops' labs and by the quality of their answers to our RFP, as well as the technical expertise demonstrated throughout the selection process," **says Geert Standaert, Network Lead and CTO of Proximus.** *"Beyond the simplicity and efficiency of the proposed architecture, this collaboration builds on a long-standing partnership with a trusted and reliable partner. Ekinops' expertise will play a key role in supporting our network evolution and delivering on our long-term ambitions."*

"This agreement builds on Ekinops strengths: delivering trusted, flexible, high-capacity optical networking solutions," **says Lionel Chmilewsky, CEO of Ekinops.** *"It highlights how our continued innovation—and the dedication and expertise of our teams serving customers worldwide—are delivering tangible results.* We are extremely honored by Proximus' trust in our European technologies and our people. *We are fully committed to the success of NEURON and look forward to what we will accomplish together."*

The project plan will include lab and field trials, starting now with first network deployment to start in second half of 2026.

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All press releases are published after Euronext Paris market close.

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About Ekinops

Ekinops is a European leader in optical networking and secured connectivity solutions for service providers, enterprises and public organizations around the world.

Ekinops designs, develops and manufactures high-performance solutions with cutting-edge software used to deliver high-bandwidth connectivity and managed services in over 70 countries worldwide.

Ekinops leads in the areas of:

- Advanced coherent optical networking for all metropolitan, regional, long-distance and datacenter interconnection applications
- Secured connectivity solutions for enterprises, from voice and data routing devices to Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) capabilities, including ZTNA (Zero-Trust Network Access), SD-WAN, and SSE.

Ekinops operates globally and is listed on Euronext Paris (FR0011466069 - EKI).

For more information, visit https://www.ekinops.com/

About Proximus Group

Proximus Group (Euronext Brussels: PROX) is a leading provider of future-proof connectivity, IT, and digital services in the Benelux, also offering digital communications services to global markets.

For nearly a century, we have played a central role in connecting Belgian society. Every day, we serve more than 2.8 million residential customers through the Proximus, Mobile Vikings, and Scarlet brands and provide premium telecom and ICT solutions to more than 450,000 businesses through Proximus NXT. Proximus makes a significant contribution to the Belgian economy. We invest in open fixed and mobile networks that support the digital economy and drive innovation.

Proximus Global unites the strengths of BICS, Telesign, and Route Mobile to offer digital communications solutions worldwide. As a global player, we empower enterprises and mobile operators to connect, protect, and engage customers everywhere.

We are committed to creating long-term value for society, embedding responsible business practices, respect for people and communities, and environmental impact into the way we operate.

Our 12,933 employees are actively engaged in exceeding our customers' expectations and creating value for all stakeholders.
For more information, visit www.proximus.com.