



## Manitou BF Informs the Public of a Patent Infringement Litigation

**Ancenis, 22 May 2017** – Manitou BF announces that on 5 May 2017, J.C. Bamford Excavators Limited filed a claim with the Court of First Instance (Tribunal de grande instance) of Paris alleging infringement by Manitou BF of two European patents regarding certain features related to the control system of the overload cut-off of certain telehandlers commercialized in the European Union. On 8 May 2017, the same plaintiff filed a claim based on similar allegations with the High Court of Justice – Chancery Division in London against Manitou BF and its subsidiary Manitou UK Limited.

The plaintiff's allegations are based on European patents filed on 2 July 2003 (filed under the priority of an English patent filed on 12 July 2002, which is also asserted before the English court) and 17 May 2010, respectively. The first of such European patents had been challenged by Manitou BF before the European Patent Office. On 30 March 2017, the European Patent Office maintained such patent in a limited form, which will require the European Patent Office to re-issue an amended patent reflecting the applicable limitations. The grounds for the decision of the European Patent Office are not known as of now. They will be known only when such decision will be available in writing, which is not yet the case. It will be necessary to analyze these grounds in order for Manitou BF to fully prepare its defense.

Financially, the plaintiff is seeking preliminary damages (subject to further evaluation) in the amount of €20 million before the French court. It does not specify the amount claimed before the English court. However, for procedural purposes, the commercial value of the claim before the English court is estimated to be in excess of £10 million.

Manitou BF and Manitou UK Limited strongly disagree with the allegations contained in the plaintiff's claims and intend to defend themselves vigorously against these allegations.

A preliminary procedural hearing is scheduled in France for 29 June 2017. A preliminary defense statement will be filed by Manitou BF and Manitou UK Limited with the English court in June, 2017. The first procedural hearing in England is expected in the autumn 2017.

ISIN code: FR0000038606

Indices: CAC All-Tradable, CAC Ind. Engin. CAC Industrials, CAC Mid & Small, CAC Small, Euronext PEA PME 150 Euronext® Family Business

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The group product ranges encompass: telehandlers, all-terrain, semi-industrial and industrial mast forklifts, skidsteers, track loaders, articulated loaders, access platforms, truck-mounted forklifts, warehousing equipment and attachments.

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Headquartered in France, the group registered in 2016 a revenue of €1.3 billion in 140 countries, and employs 3,300 people all committed to satisfying customers.