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## Entrepreneur of the Year for Rhône-Alpes area: Alexandre SAUBOT, HAULOTTE GROUP Chief Executive Officer

Alexandre Saubot, HAULOTTE GROUP Chief Executive Officer is the 2007 winner of the prize for "Entrepreneur of the Year" for Rhône-Alpes area.

The European leader of people and material lifting equipment received the prize from Mr. Gilles Poncet, Fortis Bank France Lyon Business Centre Manager, in the presence of Mr. Marcel Deruy, President of "Lyon Ville de l'Entrepreneuriat" and President of Jury, this Tuesday September  $25^{\rm th}$ , 2007.

The French version of the famous American "Entrepreneur of the year", the prize is coorganized by Ernst & Young and l'Entrepreneur Magazine (Groupe Express-Expansion). The 15<sup>th</sup> edition is sponsored by Fortis, Kadeos and Microsoft, and support by LCI, Figaro and Radio Classique.

The "Entrepreneur of the Year", Rhône-Alpes area, awards the most successful company regarding the following criteria:

- a sustained turnover growth : € 519.3 M in 2006 (x2.4 in 3 years)
- a sustained profitability improvement: 18.3% in 2006 (variation 2005/2006: +43%)
- Manpower increase: 1672 in 2006 (695 in 2003)

For this reason Alexandre Saubot goes through to the national final, which will take place on October 16 on the Opéra Garnier in Paris

Haulotte Group, European leader of people and material lifting equipment, has had a brilliant performance in first Half Year 2007, with an increasing sales turnover of 31% (€ 310.2 M) and an increasing operating profit of 46%.

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