

C E D E T

PRESS RELEASE

Nonregulated information
Warsaw, 15 January 2018 at 9.00 AM

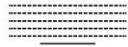
Cedet to feature an original 1956 neon sign¹. The reconstructed façade of the building evokes the years of its splendour.

The modernised and expanded Cedet (CDT) will be put into operation at the turn of the first and second quarters of this year. From the beginning of the work, the investor's intention was to reproduce the original appearance of the building before the fire in 1975. Immobel Poland also decided to recreate the original neon sign construction, which for years was a characteristic feature of the building's façade. At the beginning of the new year, the renovated sweeping serpentine was hung on the side of the building by Aleje Jerozolimskie.

The company Immobel, which is well-known on the Belgian market for the refurbishment of exceptional buildings in city centres (e.g. the historic Chambon complex in Brussels), has also used its extensive experience on the Polish market too. Bearing in mind the historical importance of Cedet and its role in the capital city's landscape, from the beginning of the work in 2015, the investor argued that the final architectural design and technologies applied would enable the building to be restored to its original splendour.

'We know that the refurbishment of buildings, which have been a city landmark for years, often faces great resistance from the local community. Concerns arise about the preservation of the original architectural concept, how it will be implemented, or the new functions of the building. This trend is certainly stronger in places such as Warsaw, where we have very few architectural gems of this kind. In the case of Cedet, the concerns were aggravated by the fact that, for safety reasons, most of the building's structure that was damaged by that fire needed to be demolished. I think that today – a few weeks before the official opening of the building – it is already clear that our efforts have not been in vain. The building's façade adorns the

¹ Estimates suggest that it is highly likely that the sign was installed at the turn of 1955/56 or in 1956, based on a detailed analysis of photographs from that period. The most reliable seem to be photographs taken by Mr. Uchymiak, as postcards issued by Centralna Agencja Fotograficzna [Central Photographic Agency] with the titles of 'CDT nocą lata 55/56' [CDT by night 55/56] and 'CDT 1956 – za dnia' [CDT 1956 – by day].



city centre and elegantly combines the standards of modern commercial space with the history of the place,' concludes Jacek Wachowicz, President of Immobel Poland.

The installation of the original neon sign is the culmination of activities related to the refurbishment of the building. It was originally designed and manufactured in the German Democratic Republic; it was an expression of gratitude for allowing the first storey of the then CDT to be used for advertising GDR consumer goods. Since 1956, the neon sweeping serpentine sign, like the oval chimneys, has become a characteristic feature of the building's front façade.

According to the arrangements with the Capital City's Monument Conservation Office, its characteristic shape has been meticulously reconstructed with the preservation of traditional technologies. The structure of a total weight of 4.5 tonnes is made of bent steel flat bars forming, once welded together, an I-shaped profile that smoothly follows a spiral trajectory. Just like all traditional neon constructions, it is blue inside – the blue being the colour of the glowing gas, i.e. neon. To achieve the 'historical' colour temperature inside, glass tubes lined with phosphor, a mixture of gases – argon and neon with mercury vapour – glowing at 10000 V were used.

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IMMOBEL Group:

A Belgian real estate development company in operation since 1863 and listed on the Euronext stock exchange. A Belgian real estate market leader, focused on the office and housing sector, and creating its own land banks. It also operates in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and, since 2011, in Poland. 150 years of experience enables the company to design and develop innovative urban projects with functionalities that are fully adapted to the current needs of cities and their residents. The company's portfolio includes unique office buildings, such as the European Parliament Building and the Black Pearl office building in Brussels, and the Federal Police building. The Infinity Living complex, the first residential tower in Luxembourg, stands out among the Group's numerous ambitious housing projects. One of the latest ventures of the group, the historical Chambon complex, located in the Belgian capital, received the 'Best Refurbished Building' prize as part of the MIPIM Awards 2017. For further information, visit www.immobelgroup.com

IMMOBEL Poland:

Immobel Poland – operating since 2011, is a subsidiary of Immobel Group, a Belgian real estate market leader in the office and housing sectors. On the Polish market, the company consistently implements the brand strategy of carrying out ambitious, often multi-functional, development projects which create permanent value for city residents. The company investments are renowned for cooperation with the world's best architects, a unique combination of the utility values of buildings with the latest architectural trends, and care for the environment. In Poland, the company is famous for refurbishing the Okrąglak in Poznań. Immobel Poland is currently finishing works at the historical CEDET in Warsaw – the old Smyk building. Also in Warsaw, the company is preparing to build a modern office skyscraper called Central Point, which will be located at the junction of Świętokrzyska and Marszałkowska streets. In Gdańsk, the company is successfully operating a multi-functional investment called Granaria, located on the Granary Island.