



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **COUCHE-TARD AND ITS CIRCLE K STORES IN EUROPE PARTNER WITH IONITY - A JOINT VENTURE OF MAJOR AUTOMAKERS - FOR HIGH-POWER CHARGING ACROSS EUROPE**

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**Laval (Québec) Canada – November 6, 2017** – IONITY is a joint venture of BMW Group, Daimler AG, Ford Motor Company and Volkswagen Group with Audi & Porsche. Its mission is to create a network of high-power chargers (HPC) across Europe to enable long-distance e-mobility. Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. (“Couche-Tard”) (TSX: ATD.A ATD.B), through its Circle K network of stores in Europe, and IONITY join forces in order to make the European network come true. Customers will gain access to hundreds of HPC charge-points within the Circle K network.

- **Couche-Tard, through its Circle K network in Europe, enters into partnership with IONITY to install and operate a high-powered DC charging network for battery electric vehicles (BEV) covering long-distance travel routes in Europe;**
- **Network based on the Combined Charging System (CCS) standard;**
- **Power levels up to 350 kW make it possible to significantly reduce charging time compared to existing systems**

“We are proud and excited to partner up with IONITY in creating the highest-powered charging network in Europe. The initiative underscores Circle K’s commitment to being a part of mobility solutions in our core markets. We want to make it easy for our customers to take part in the technology advancements allowing fast charging for long-distance electric mobility for the first time,” says Group President Circle K Europe, Jacob Schram.

“This will be a new part of our offer in these European BEV-markets. At Couche-Tard we believe that this opportunity allows us as a company to evaluate and learn from this new venture”, says Jacob Schram.

IONITY’s network will consist of approximately 400 HPC stations to enable long-distance travel in Europe across multiple countries.

Each site will have on average six high-power charging points. Circle K will be the network partner in seven countries. It is planned to establish the next generation EV chargers on sites in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.



“The extensive Circle K network of stations provides excellent locations, and they already have good experience in providing electrical charging. Our companies have a common goal in providing fast, innovative and comfortable charging solutions for our customers,” says CEO of IONITY, Michael Hajesch.

With power levels up to 350 kW the network will enable cars with suitable technology to significantly reduce charging time. The network supports existing and next generation electrical vehicles based on the CCS system.

The goal is to enable long-distance travel through our open-network charging stations along highways and major thoroughfares, which has not been feasible for most BEV drivers so far.

### **Gradual roll out**

IONITY are currently planning to roll out 400 sites in Europe. Circle K and IONITY will initially roll out 60 of those together. Each site in the network will have an average of six high-power charging points.

The charging network will follow a gradual roll-out across Circle K’s network starting with pilots in the Scandinavian countries expected in late 2017. The rest of the sites are expected in 2018 and 2019.

### **About IONITY**

IONITY, based in Munich, was founded in 2017 as a joint venture of the BMW Group, Daimler AG, Ford Motor Company and the Volkswagen Group alongside Audi and Porsche. The aim of the joint venture is to establish a High-Power Charging (HPC) network for electric vehicles with Europe-wide coverage to guarantee comfortable electromobility over long distances. With strong cooperation partners IONITY offers attractive national and international locations. IONITY is an internationally registered trademark.

### **About Circle K**

Circle K AS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. In Europe Couche-Tard operates 2,754 stores, comprising a broad retail network across nine countries. Including employees at its branded franchise stations, about 25,000 people work in its retail network, terminals and service offices across Europe.

### **About Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.**

Couche-Tard is the leader in the Canadian convenience store industry. In the United States, it is the largest independent convenience store operator in terms of number of company-operated stores. In Europe, Couche-Tard is a leader in convenience store and road transportation fuel retail in the Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden and Denmark), in the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), and in Ireland and also has an important presence in Poland.



As of July 23, 2017, Couche-Tard's network comprised 9,471 convenience stores throughout North America including close to 8,129 stores with road transportation fuel dispensing. Its North American network consists of 18 business units, including 14 in the United States covering 42 states and 4 in Canada covering all 10 provinces. Approximately 95,000 people are employed throughout its network and at its service offices in North America. In addition, through CrossAmerica Partners LP, Couche-Tard supplies road transportation fuel under various brands to more than 1, 200 locations in the United States.

In Europe, Couche-Tard operates a broad retail network across Scandinavia, Ireland, Poland, the Baltics and Russia through ten business units. As of July 23, 2017, Couche-Tard's network comprised of 2,754 stores, the majority of which offer road transportation fuel and convenience products while the others are unmanned automated fuel sites which only offer road transportation fuel. Couche-Tard also offers other products, including stationary energy, marine fuel, aviation fuel and chemicals. Including employees at its branded franchise stores, approximately 25,000 people work in its retail network, terminals and service offices across Europe.

In addition, under licensing agreements, close to 1,700 stores are operated under the Circle K banner in 13 other countries and territories (China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Guam, Honduras, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam), which brings the total network to close to 15,000 stores.

For more information on Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc., please visit: <http://corpo.couche-tard.com>.

**Source:** Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.

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#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

*The statements set forth in this press release, which describe Couche-Tard's objectives, projections, estimates, expectations or forecasts, may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of securities legislation. Positive or negative verbs such as "will", "plan", "evaluate", "estimate", "believe", "expect" and other related expressions are used to identify such statements. Couche-Tard would like to point out that, by their very nature, forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties such that its results, or the measures it adopts, could differ materially from those indicated or underlying these statements, or could have an impact on the degree of realization of a particular projection. Major factors that may lead to a material difference between Couche-Tard's actual results and the projections or expectations set forth in the forward-looking statements include the effects of the integration of acquired businesses and the ability to achieve projected synergies, fluctuations in margins on motor fuel sales, competition in the convenience store and retail motor fuel industries, exchange rate variations, and such other risks as described in detail from time to time in documents filed by Couche-Tard with securities regulatory authorities in Canada. Unless otherwise required by applicable securities laws, Couche-Tard disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. The forward-looking information in this press release is based on information available as of the date of the release.*