NEXTURE AGREES TO ACQUIRE LA CREMA, STRENGTHENING ITS MIDDLE EAST PRESENCE AND EXPANDING THE GROUP'S PRODUCT OFFERING

The transaction strengthens Nexture's strategic presence in the Middle East, establishing a local manufacturing platform in the region, while further expanding the Group's portfolio of value-added solutions with a vast range of chocolate products and enabling significant growth opportunities across pastry, bakery, and gelato.

Milan, September 21st, 2026 – Nexture S.p.A. ("Nexture" or the "Group"), a global integrated group specializing in the development and manufacturing of high-quality food ingredients and value-added solutions, and held by an independently managed investment company of Investindustrial VII L.P., has signed an agreement to acquire La Crema, a Dubai-based manufacturer of chocolate and value-added food ingredients for a variety of end-applications, including ice cream, bakery, and fine pastry.

The acquisition, once completed, will allow Nexture to establish its first manufacturing presence in the Middle East and significantly enhance its commercial foothold in a strategically important growth region, thanks to direct access to a large and growing ingredients industry. Furthermore, it will broaden Nexture's offering of value-added solutions, expanding the portfolio with a more extensive range of chocolate products, such as cream fillings, bars, chips and buttons, as well as other cream fillings, ice cream solutions, ready-mix powders and fruit fillings.

After completion of the acquisition, the Group's industrial footprint will expand from 8 factories at entry in 2021 to 30 factories worldwide, including 2 in North America, 4 in Africa, 1 in the Middle East, 1 in Asia, and the remaining 22 across 8 European countries. In parallel, the workforce will reach over 2,900 employees.

Headquartered in Dubai, UAE, La Crema was founded by Bilal Khalife in 2016 as a trading business serving the HoReCa segment, and expanded into in-house manufacturing in 2018, combining production with a distribution network spanning wholesalers, distributors and retailers. Its established presence in Dubai provides Nexture with an attractive platform from which to serve customers across the Middle East and pursue further growth in the region. La Crema today offers a diversified portfolio including chocolate sauces and cream fillings, chocolate bars, chocolate chips and buttons assorted chocolates, ice cream solutions, ready-mix powders and fruit fillings, commercialized either under the brand La Crema or through private labels. La Crema's manufacturing facility is based in Dubai and its workforce includes approximately 170 employees in production, operations, and sales & marketing.

Valerie-Diele Braun, Chief Executive Officer of **Nexture,** explained: "*This acquisition marks an important step in Nexture's global growth strategy, establishing our first manufacturing footprint in the Middle East and giving us direct access to one of the world's fastest-growing ingredients markets. La Crema is a natural fit for our portfolio, adding a rich and diversified chocolate offering to our value-added solutions and unlocking meaningful synergies across the Group. We're also particularly excited to strengthen our chocolate offering as it is a category that inspires creativity, delights consumers, and creates lasting value for our customers. We are delighted to partner with Mr. Bilal Khalife, who has built and developed La Crema into the business it is today. We look forward to working with him to unlock the company's next phase of growth.*"

Following the acquisitions of Frulact and Sipral Padana, which were completed in March and April 2026 respectively, Nexture's acquisition of La Crema marks another milestone in its ambitious buy-and-build strategy to become one of the leading global providers of value-added solutions in the food and beverage industry, a program designed with Investindustrial's Operational Improvement Advisory team.

Since the acquisition of CSM Ingredients in 2021, when the Group generated €517 million in sales, Nexture has evolved into a global group with estimated annual revenues of approximately €1.2 billion[1], pro-forma for the recently signed acquisition of La Crema.

Completion of the transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals, and is currently expected to take place by the end of 2026.

[1] *Financials pro-forma for March 2026 LTM as per public bondholder disclosure.*

PRESS RELEASE

ABOUT NEXTURE

Headquartered in Milan, Italy, and held by an independently managed investment company affiliated to Investindustrial, Nexture empowers food brands worldwide with **cutting-edge ingredients and value-added solutions**. As a global integrated group, Nexture encompasses renowned brands such as **CSM Ingredients, HIFOOD, Frulact, Italcanditi, Sipral Group, Comprital**, and **Prodotti Rubicone,** all internationally recognized for the excellence of their solutions and their ability to anticipate consumer trends. As of July 31st, 2026, Nexture operates in over 120 countries, with **29 production plants**, **26 development centers**, **4 innovation centers** and over **2,800 employees**. Thanks to its broad product range and specialized expertise across multiple food categories, Nexture is positioned as a **one-stop-shop** able to support food artisans and manufacturers in crafting and producing goods that perform, delight, and evolve with consumer and planet needs. By combining artisanal heritage, technological knowhow, sustainability-focus, and an extensive network to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving market, Nexture supports the evolution of several market segments: **bread, fine pastry, fresh dairy & dairy alternatives, bars & snacks, ice cream, artisanal gelato, plant-based alternatives, ready meals, sauces & dressings, beverages, confectionery and free-from goods.** Any references to "Investindustrial" are intended as general and should not be construed as an indication of control by any specific company or individual. Investindustrial's investment companies act independently from each other and each Investindustrial fund and are each independently managed by their respective board of directors.

For more information, visit: nexture.com

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