



Pontault-Combault (Paris Region)

PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAN RETAILER COSTCO INAUGURATES ITS SECOND FRENCH STORE, BUILT BY GSE

Following a first store inaugurated in 2017 in the Paris suburb of Villebon-sur-Yvette, Costco Wholesale, a US-based big-box retail chain that operates as a members-only warehouse club for consumers and professionals, has opened its second site in Pontault-Combault, east of Paris. Costco Wholesale, the world's second largest retailer, contracted GSE to requalify the existing 14,900 m² site to welcome the new store.



A 14,900 m² requalification project of a former supermarket

Wishing to take an eco-responsible approach to this project, in line with current environmental imperatives, COSTCO decided to requalify a commercial brownfield site, through the in-depth restructuring of the former E.LECLERC store in the *Les 4 Chênes* neighbourhood.

The entire property, covering 14,900 m², underwent a major overhaul. Only the main frame was preserved, reinforced by metal portal frames. The existing slab was fully demolished. The underlying bases were redone before pouring a new slab.

Following six months of works, the fully renovated site provides a retail surface area of more than 8,000 m².

"Here at GSE, we are real proud to work with a global industry leader such as the COSTCO group. This shows that our expertise in commercial real estate – and our deep understanding of the specific challenges of retail property – is internationally recognised," said Emmanuel CURNIE at GSE. *"Our mastery of this type of requalification and this type of building enabled us to quickly and efficiently meet all the expectations of the client, with whom we established a truly trusting relationship."*

The US chain's second store in France...

This is the retailer's second French store, following the 2017 opening of the Villebon-sur-Yvette store, south of Paris. The principle of Costco, a warehouse club for card-carrying members only (€36 annual fee), is to offer a limited selection of some 3,500 items, including 500 new and seasonal items in the Treasure Hunt category, from groceries to jewellery and luxury products, including electronics and household appliances, not to mention DIY, leisure items, etc.



Like the first store south of Paris, the Pontault-Combault Costco also offers services such as a hearing aid centre, an optician centre, a restaurant-club and a tire fitting service.

A total of 300 employees work at the site.

... at a strategic, rapidly evolving location

The new shopping centre is located in the heart of the *Les 4 Chênes* neighbourhood in Pontault-Combault, just 20 kilometres from Paris. This shopping complex, which opened in 2012, covers a total surface area of 20 hectares (50 acres) and is home to some 20 brands, including stores, three restaurants, a hairdresser, a fitness centre and a hotel. It has a 1,700-space car park (817 above ground and 883 underground).

ABOUT GSE

Founded in 1976, GSE has become a global contractor specialising in the comprehensive management of commercial real estate projects in Europe and China (from real estate development and financing to the search for land, project qualification, technical studies, design & build, commissioning, and after-sales services), with commitments on prices, deadlines, and quality. GSE has over 460 employees producing logistics, industrial, retail, and special purpose buildings, with a turnover of around €665 million in 2020. GSE operates in six European countries as well as China. The company has been present in Spain for over 20 years and has delivered leading industrial and logistics projects across the country. In 2019, GSE became part of GOLDBECK, the European leader of turnkey construction with revenues over €4 billion and 7,800 employees at more than 70 sites.

More about GSE : www.gsegroup.com/en/

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