



# Axel Springer Editura and Romanian Publishing Group (RPG) to merge

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**Axel Springer Editura, the fully-owned Romanian subsidiary of Axel Springer Verlag, is to merge its magazine publishing activities with those of the Romanian Publishing Group (RPG), which is owned by Libedi Sarl, a 50/50 joint venture of the Edipresse Group (Switzerland) and Mr. Antonios Liberis (Greece).**

A letter of intent to this effect has been signed by the parties. The transaction is subject to usual board and regulatory approvals.

The new group will retain the name RPG. It will be held 40 % by Axel Springer Verlag and 60 % by Libedi Sarl. Cristina Simion of RPG will be Managing Director.

Axel Springer Verlag is contributing its monthly youth title Popcorn, its women's title Olivia and two other entertainment magazines to RPG. RPG's own publications comprise the Romanian edition of Elle, the women's title Avantaje, the people magazine Viva and the youth title 20 Ani.

The merger strengthens both companies' market position and provides an excellent platform for future growth. Edipresse and Antonios Liberis have been present in Romania since 1998.

Edipresse's other Eastern European activities include Poland and the Ukraine. Axel Springer Verlag has been active in Romania since 1999. Together with Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, Romania is one of its major operations in Eastern Europe.

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