



ATEP participates in €300m funding round for 21 Centrale Partners IV

Funding supports leading French growth buyout specialist

Alliance Trust Equity Partners ("ATEP") is pleased to announce its recent commitment to invest €20m into 21 Centrale Partners IV, the fourth private equity fund from French growth buy out specialist 21 Centrale Partners.

The second close of 21 Centrale Partners IV was announced in April 2010 and had total commitments in excess of €300m being received from over 20 international and domestic investors. The Fund is of a similar size to its predecessor, 21 Centrale Partners III, and positions 21 Centrale Partners strongly to attract new investment opportunities in the French private equity market.

21 Centrale Partners has an extensive financial and industrial network provided by the 21 Platform spanning France and Italy which comprises a strong relationship with the Benetton conglomerate and an extensive network of strategic advisors.

21 Centrale Partners has built a strong track record in investing in growing French companies completing deals across a range of sectors including Interflora (Services – delivery of flowers), Ligier Microcar (Automotive - licence free cars), Nord Est (Packaging – healthcare and luxury goods) and Vulcanic (Engineering - electrical heating and cooling).

21 Centrale Partners recently completed its first investment of 21 Centrale Partners IV into Coyote - the French leader in automotive telematics services, providing real-time traffic and road safety information to a user community.

Gerard Pluvinet, Founding Managing Partner of 21 Centrale Partners said "We are delighted to have achieved this closing for 21 Centrale Partners IV and we are very well positioned to readily benefit from current market conditions, with attractive valuations, and leverage on economic recovery to continue providing investors with promising growth stories."

Richard Hope, Investment Director of ATEP said "We are very pleased to have made our commitment of €20m into 21 Centrale Partners IV, our first French private equity fund so increasing our exposure to Western European private equity funds. We were very impressed with the track record and the experience of the management team and look forward to developing a good relationship with 21 Centrale Partners."

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About 21 Centrale Partners

21 Centrale Partners is an international private equity group dedicated to growth buy-outs in France and Italy. The group, led by Alessandro Benetton and Gerard Pluvinet, manages in excess of €1 billion of assets. The French team of the group ("21 Centrale Partners") and the Italian team of the group ("21 Investimenti") each manage their own country specific funds and share knowledge across the two markets.

About Alliance Trust Equity Partners Ltd

ATEP is an institutional investor in private equity funds and is building an investment portfolio comprising low to mid market buyout funds and related co-investments across UK and Western Europe.

Alliance Trust Equity Partners Limited is authorised by the Financial Services Authority to conduct regulated activities related to corporate finance business and venture capital. It does not engage in FSA regulated activities for retail clients as defined by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

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