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france”

June 2012

**Reason says:
this acquisition
is too costly.**



**Instinct says:
not as costly as
missing out.**



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unquote' Analysis is published 10 times a year by Incisive Financial Publishing Ltd
32-34 Broadwick Street London W1A 2HG, UK
Tel: +44 20 7316 9000
ISSN 1465-9719

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£1,600 / €2,400



A tale of two buyouts

SIZEABLE FRENCH LBOs resembled the proverbial buses in May: you wait for one for an eternity, and then two appear at once.

Firstly, Lion Capital acquired eyewear retailer Alain Afflelou from Bridgepoint, Apax France and Altamir Amboise in a deal believed to be valued at nearly €800m (*see page 8*). The target could have slipped from private equity's grasp had it not been for last year's tumultuous public markets: Alain Afflelou, whose stores are a familiar sight in France's high street, was rearing for an IPO for the best part of 2011.

UK-based Lion Capital scored France's largest buyout in 2010 when it acquired Picard Surgelés for €1.5bn – it is ahead of the pack in 2012 as well since transactions are so far struggling to break the €500m mark. As the Alain Afflelou deal shows, foreign investors still have an edge when it comes to large-cap buyouts – this was also clear last year as the three largest French deals came courtesy of cross-border deal-doers. Debt on the Afflelou deal was again provided by global players, namely Citi, UniCredit and Alcentra.

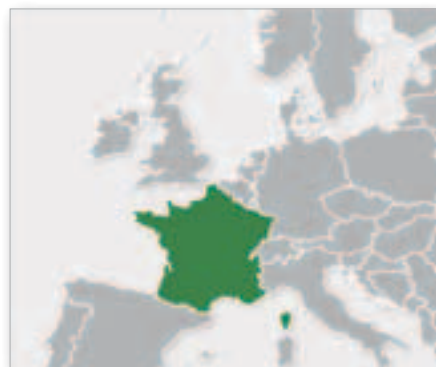
By comparison, Sagard Private Equity's acquisition of discount wholesaler Stokomani from Advent International for around €200m (*see page 8*) feels home-grown: proof that local players hold their own when it comes to the more intimate lower mid-cap segment. Sagard initially approached Advent with a pre-emptive offer a year ago, but the vendor declined, organising an auction process which attracted mostly French mid-cap players. Leverage on the Stokomani transaction was also provided by France's usual suspects: BNP Paribas, Société Générale, LCL and AXA Mezzanine.

Tough road ahead

These two transactions were followed by the €124m Sepur and €150-200m Armatiss buyouts at the end of May. But local GPs are still lamenting the lack of visibility on macro-economic trends and company performances, and accessing financing for all but the best deals remains problematic.

"From what we see in the market, opportunities are still there. Vendors are still willing to divest, especially those that have delayed processes for several months now," Argos Soditic partner Karel Kroupa told your correspondent. "That said, everything is more complex: due diligence, financing, negotiations... One has to be really motivated to see a deal through to completion. Processes therefore tend to last longer for all but the very best assets."

Cinven could help ascertain whether May's mid-cap uptick was just a flash in the pan: the



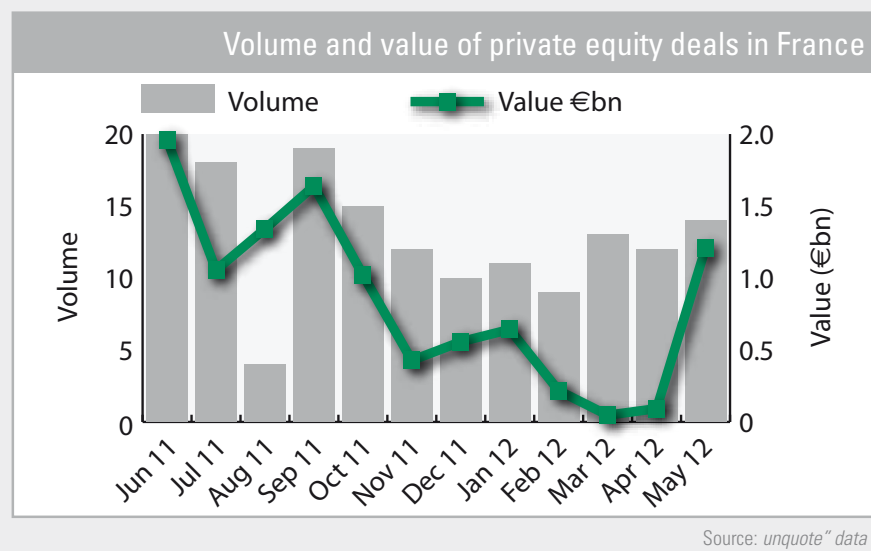
GP is understood to be striking a deal with Indigo Capital to buy out Prezioso-Technilor, an insulation coatings specialist that posted a €307m turnover last year. ■

Deaf flow in France stays slow

AFTER APRIL, which only saw 12 deals worth €100m, French dealflow remained subdued in May. Yet the overall value increased spectacularly, largely due to the SBOs of Alain Afflelou by Lion Capital (c€800m) and Stokomani by Sagard (c€200m, *see page 8*) pushing values up tenfold. Listed GP Eurazeo also contributed to the value hike by taking part in a €110m capital injection for portfolio company Europcar as part of a wider refinancing.

Meanwhile FSI Régions remained active in the <€5m growth capital segment with the Arcancil Paris, Fabulous Garden, and Bourdoncle deals.

The sectors targeted by private equity players were particularly varied in May, including building materials and fixtures, furnishings, industrials, medical supplies, alternative fuels and software.



EDF steps (back) into venture

SNCF, FRANCE TÉLÉCOM, PSA Peugeot Citroën, Total, Publicis – some of the largest French companies have set their sights on corporate venture capital over the past few months. France can now add EDF to the mix: the energy company has partnered with private equity house Idinvest Partners to launch the cleantech venture capital fund Electranova Capital.

The fund held its first close on €40m at the end of April and will be managed independently by Idinvest Partners. EDF committed €30m to the project while Allianz, the first institutional LP to invest in the vehicle, contributed €10m.

The search for investors will continue throughout 2012 and discussions with

several potential LPs are already underway.

Electranova will finance start-ups active in the energy sector, both in France and Europe, via minority shareholdings.

EDF is not a novice when it comes to venture capital. The group founded EDF Capital-Investissement in 1997 in partnership with Tocqueville International, which managed the business. But EDF sold the unit to ARCIS in a secondaries transaction less than a decade later, choosing to re-focus on its core businesses.

The Electranova initiative therefore sees it return to venture strictly as an LP, as opposed to the wholly-owned subsidiary approach adopted during the EDF Capital-Investissement years.

That said, EDF still makes direct investments via EDEV, an investment holding backing a wide range of mature businesses in the energy sector.

The move by EDF follows recent initiatives launched by other French corporates making a push into venture. France Télécom and Publicis committed €150m to the OpVenture family of funds managed by Iris Capital – of which they also acquired a 24.5% stake. Meanwhile SNCF, France Télécom, PSA Peugeot Citroën and Total launched the €30m Ecomobilité Ventures vehicle at the end of 2011, focusing on businesses developing sustainable mobility products, services and technologies as well as mobility-related clean technologies. ■

Entrepreneurs looking at private equity to finance bolt-ons – Oséo poll

THE OVERALL value of French private equity-backed acquisition finance deals recorded by *unquote* in the first months of this year has already exceeded 2011 year-end figures (see chart). Recent research also highlights that French businesses remain hungry for build-up opportunities.

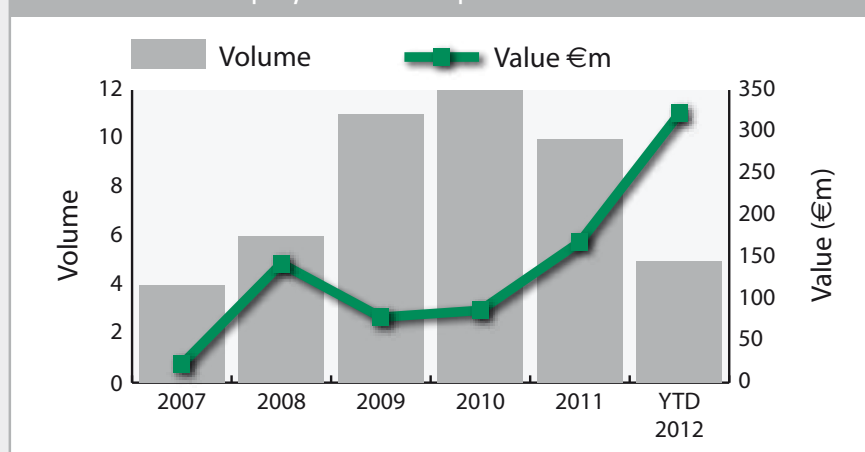
Slightly more than half (54%) of French entrepreneurs recently polled by state bank Oséo are thinking of expanding through acquisition – with a quarter aiming to do so in 2012. And, in what will undoubtedly be good news for an otherwise quiet private equity market, two-thirds of respondents state they would need to bring an external investor on board to finance bolt-ons.

Furthermore, the proportion of businesses needing to turn to private equity for acquisition finance increases to 88% when the amount of funding required exceeds €2m – highlighting the fact that capital sources remain scarce for SMEs in France.

But although a majority of entrepreneurs recognise the need for private equity backing, the

survey shows that a significant proportion sees it as off-putting enough to warrant writing off acquisition plans. The 46% of respondents that do not intend to complete bolt-ons are mainly concerned with factors such as a dilution of their stake and the backer's expectations when it comes to valuation and exit strategy.

Private equity-backed acquisition finance deals in France



Source: *unquote* data

Omnes flying the nest: life after a spinout

Omnes Capital (formerly Crédit Agricole Private Equity) is the latest French private equity house waving goodbye to its captive roots. Chairman and CEO Fabien Prévost talks to **Greg Gille** about the spin-off process, the firm's remaining ties to its former parent and its strategy for the future

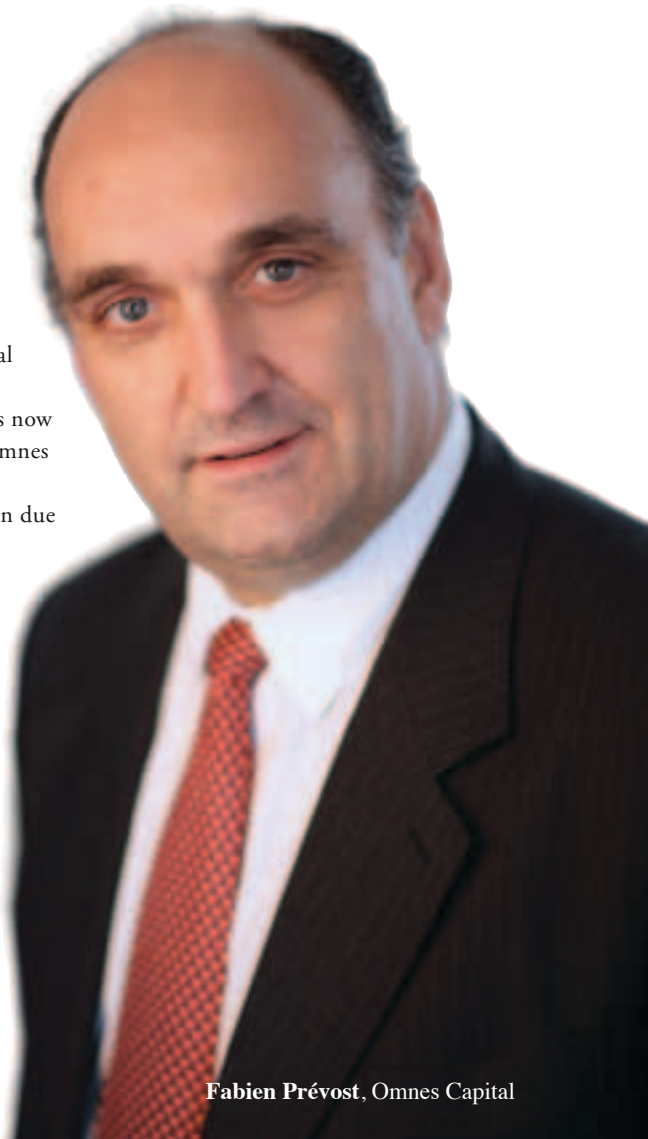
NATIXIS, ALLIANZ, Macif... French banks and insurance companies have been carving out their private equity arms at a steady pace over the past couple of years, egged on by regulatory constraints and a strategic focus on their core activities. With AXA's private equity unit also nearing a sale, captive funds are quickly going the way of the dodo.

Crédit Agricole Private Equity (CAPE) is among the latest to have somewhat reluctantly made a break for freedom: Collier Capital acquired the management company, along with half of the bank's investment in the funds it manages, at the end of March. The GP is now wholly-owned by Collier and operates under the new moniker of Omnes Capital.

Omnes' management team is aiming to gain control of the firm in due course and is currently in talks with Collier on that point.

Being part of a larger institutional group can have its downsides, and some former captives welcomed the new-found freedom from an overbearing parent that might have stifled their ambitions. But Omnes chairman and chief executive Fabien Prévost does not look back in anger on his years as part of the Crédit Agricole group: "We are truly excited by the spin-off, but I must say we didn't actively seek to become independent. The goal 10 years ago was to build a powerful private equity unit within a large banking group, and in many respects we achieved this."

The fresh start will therefore see Omnes' strategy remain largely intact – the firm will continue to operate as a generalist fund manager active in most of the private equity space, including small- and mid-cap LBOs, venture and mezzanine. "We don't want to significantly alter our positioning," Prévost continues. "French (and in some cases European) SMEs are at the heart of our DNA and this is not going to change. Besides, the regional subsidiaries of Crédit Agricole are still significantly committed to



Fabien Prévost, Omnes Capital

our funds and this natural relationship will of course remain strong.”

That is not to say that the only difference between Omnes and CAPE lies in the name. “The firm’s culture will of course undergo some changes as well,” says Prévost. “Becoming an independent structure is quite liberating in a way, and infuses everyone with a kind of entrepreneurial spirit that is hard to foster when you are part of a larger group.” Another practical consequence of the spin-off is that Omnes will have to move away from the bank’s governance model: “It used to be reassuring for our investors, notably with regards to risk control, but was perhaps not best suited for a GP,” notes Prévost.

Building new relationships

The firm will also have to pitch itself differently to LPs as it starts cultivating new relationships. “Being called ‘Crédit Agricole’ used to open a few doors, but also close others – I believe that moving away from the brand will open more new doors to investors than it will close,” notes Prévost. “The real impact is hard to measure, though. Many foreign LPs tend to react negatively to captive funds, for instance, while some French institutionals might have been attracted to the strength of the Crédit Agricole group.”

Deeply reshuffling their LP base constitutes an extra challenge for former captives in an already tough fundraising market. Prévost acknowledges the steep climb ahead, but reckons that some parts of the business will require more effort than others: “We are very confident about fundraising prospects for our renewable energy vehicle. On the other hand, we know that the road will be tougher for our fourth mid-cap LBO vehicle – which we want to raise next year – so we are actively preparing for it.”

On the dealflow side, Prévost doesn’t anticipate the new branding

to have a major impact on how Omnes is perceived by potential portfolio companies. “This will vary a lot on a case-by-case basis,” he says. “In venture, for instance, entrepreneurs are focusing on the fresh capital and don’t tend to care where it comes from. It doesn’t play a significant role in majority LBOs either. For minority LBOs, it can be reassuring for family owners to have Crédit Agricole at their side, but Omnes should still benefit from the remaining ties to the group via our funds.”

Roadmap for success

Two months after officially launching Omnes, Prévost believes the transition process has gone smoothly so far – and shares tips with potential spin-off candidates: “The main risk in a spin-off is for the management team to be too impatient, which can be perceived by

the future shareholder as being contrary to its own interest. To that end we made it clear from the start that we wouldn’t be looking to buy the management company straight away, which other managers in a similar situation did not do.”

“We also stated that we would be discussing a future stake in the

firm on the same terms with all the potential buyers, in a transparent manner, which is reassuring for everyone involved,” he adds.

Finally, Prévost once again insists on the fresh perspective required once a GP starts operating independently: “Once the transaction is done, one should not underestimate the in-depth changes required when you’re not part of a larger group. You need to start from a clean slate and redefine your priorities between your staff, your investors, your leads, etc. This needs to be done quickly so as not to carry over practices that might not be suited to the new environment.” ■

“Being called ‘Crédit Agricole’ used to open a few doors, but also close others – I believe that moving away from the brand will open more new doors to investors than it will close”

Fabien Prévost, Omnes Capital

About Omnes Capital

Based in Paris and with 65 members of staff, Omnes Capital is a generalist private equity house. It currently has €1.9bn worth of assets under management.

In the mid-cap LBO market, Omnes invests through FCPR structures in companies valued in the €25-150m range, with a €5-30m sweet spot.

The firm is also active in the small-cap market via two €40m funds; these invest in businesses valued between €5-30m, with an average deal size of €1-5m.

Omnes is also active in life sciences and tech venture capital, as well as mezzanine, via dedicated funds. In addition, the GP started focusing on renewable energy in the mid-2000s; it is currently looking to raise €200m for its second dedicated vehicle, Capenergie II.

DEALS

unquote.com/france

LARGE-CAP

Lion Capital buys Alain Afflelou in secondary buyout

LION CAPITAL has entered exclusive talks to acquire French eyewear retailer Alain Afflelou from Bridgepoint, Apax France and Altamir Amboise in a deal believed to be valued at nearly €800m. Founder Alain Afflelou and management will also reinvest in the buyout.

Financing was provided by Citi, UniCredit and Alcentra. Lion Capital was reportedly looking to secure a €300-400m package prior to the acquisition being announced.

Apax Partners and its quoted vehicle Altamir Amboise originally backed a secondary buyout of Alain Afflelou in May 2000 – a deal valued at €137m. Bridgepoint bought the business from Apax in 2006 for around €500m, with the previous owners reinvesting.

ADVISERS

Equity – Lazard (M&A); JP Morgan (M&A); Citi (M&A); SJ Berwin (Legal).

Vendor (Bridgepoint) – Rothschild (M&A); Latham & Watkins (Legal).

Management – Scotto (Legal); Banque Privée 1818 (M&A).

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| NAME | Alain Afflelou |
| DEAL | SBO |
| VALUE | €800m est |
| LOCATION | Paris |
| SECTOR | Speciality retailers |
| FOUNDED | 1972 |
| TURNOVER | €800m |
| EBITDA | €75m est |
| VENDOR | Bridgepoint, Apax France |
| unquote.com/2171597 | |

MID-CAP

Sagard buys Stokomani from Advent

SAGARD PRIVATE Equity has acquired French discount wholesaler Stokomani from Advent International, a transaction valued at €200-210m.

The investment was made via the Sagard II fund, which closed on €808m in 2006. The vehicle is now 75% invested.

The company's historical lenders, BNP Paribas, Société Générale and LCL, arranged a senior debt package worth up to €96m. AXA Private Equity arranged a €22m mezzanine tranche alongside Euromezzanine.

Advent acquired a majority stake in Stokomani in 2007 – a deal thought to have valued the business at around €150m. Under Advent's ownership, headcount increased from 460 to 1,250 while revenues more than doubled from €82m to €200m.

ADVISERS

Equity – Calyon, Stéphane Barret, Virginie Grouselle, Pietro Sibille (M&A); Weil Gotshal & Manges, David Aknin, Cassandre Porgès, Gauthier Elies, Edouard de Lamy (Legal, tax); STC, Christian Nouel, Stéphanie Desprez, Corinne Diez, Alexis Frasson-Gorret (Legal, tax); KPMG, Mathieu Wallich-Petit, Vincent Delmas, Fabien Thieblemont (Financial due diligence); KEA, Christophe Burtin, Olivier Tézenas du Montcel (Commercial due diligence); URS, Bertrand Latrobe (Environmental due diligence); Cavaro Conseil, Christian Mergier (Insurance due diligence).

Vendor – Rothschild, Laurent Baril, Frank Cygler (M&A); KPMG, Axel Rebaudieres (Financial due diligence); Roland Berger, Delphine Mathez (Commercial due diligence); Mayer Brown, Xavier Jaspar, Olivier Aubouin (Legal).

Company – Lazard, Isabelle Xoual, Yann Dever (M&A).

Management – HPML, Vincent Libaud (Legal).

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| NAME | Stokomani |
| DEAL | SBO |
| VALUE | €200-210m |
| DEBT RATIO | 50-60% |
| LOCATION | Compiègne |
| SECTOR | Broadline retailers |
| FOUNDED | 1962 |
| TURNOVER | €200m |
| STAFF | 1,250 |
| VENDOR | Advent International |
| unquote.com/2172228 | |

Eurazeo's Europcar turns to high-yield for refinancing

FRENCH CAR rental company Europcar, a portfolio company of listed private equity group Eurazeo, has raised €324m on the high-yield market to refinance its debt.

The yield was set at 11.5%. Europcar was initially looking to raise €335m, in order to refinance the €425m debt line maturing in 2013.

Europcar shareholders, including Eurazeo, injected an extra €110m into the company's balance sheet, to be later converted to equity.

In addition to the bond offering, Europcar negotiated to extend the maturity on its senior revolving credit facility. Following these transactions, the new corporate debt maturities were pushed to 2017 and 2018.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| NAME | Europcar |
| DEAL | Refinancing |
| VALUE | €324m (high-yield), €110m (equity) |
| LOCATION | Saint Quentin en Yvelines |
| SECTOR | Travel & tourism |
| FOUNDED | 1949 |
| TURNOVER | €1.97bn |
| unquote.com/2175510 | |

Milestone reaps 6x money on Cadum

MILESTONE CAPITAL has reaped around 6x its money on the sale of French soap and baby products company Cadum to L'Oreal.

Milestone manages more than €250m and invests primarily in the UK and France. The exit is

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| NAME | Cadum International |
| DEAL | Trade sale |
| LOCATION | Paris |
| SECTOR | Personal products |
| FOUNDED | 1907 |
| TURNOVER | €58m |
| VENDOR | Milestone Capital |
| RETURNS | c6x |
| unquote.com/2171624 | |

the firm's second from its current portfolio, following the sale of Coffee Nation to Costa Coffee for a 3.7x multiple in March 2011.

In September 2007, Milestone made an equity injection of €17.5m to fund the acquisition of Cadum. BNP Paribas Asset Management and CIC provided debt to support the deal, while Paris Orléans provided mezzanine financing.

ADVISERS

Equity – JP Morgan, Camillo Greco, Edouard Debost (Corporate finance); Travers Smith, David Patient (Legal); Constantin, Jean-Paul Séguret (Financial due diligence); OCC, Laurent Billes-Garabedian (Commercial due diligence).

SMALL-CAP

CM-CIC LBO Partners backs Nerim MBO

CM-CIC LBO Partners has backed the MBO of French telecoms operator Nerim.

The GP is understood to have taken a majority stake in the business. Founders Christophe Carel and Jacques Bouaziz sold their shares of Nerim in the MBO. In addition to management, the company's staff also have the possibility of buying shares in the new structure. CM-CIC LBO Partners usually provides equity tickets in the €5-40m range.

Paris-based Nerim employs around 50 staff and posted a €24m turnover in 2011 – it has been growing at an average of 20% per annum over the past 10 years.

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| NAME | Nerim |
| DEAL | MBO |
| VALUE | n/d (<€25-50m est) |
| LOCATION | Paris |
| SECTOR | Fixed-line communications |
| FOUNDED | 1999 |
| TURNOVER | €24m |
| STAFF | c50 |

unquote.com/2169552

Consortium acquires Delta Recyclage

A CONSORTIUM of investors has acquired French industrial and domestic recycling company Delta Recyclage.

Demeter Partners joined previous investors Soridec, CM-CIC Investissement and Amundi Private Equity. CIC Sud-Ouest reportedly provided a 1x EBITDA senior debt package to finance the transaction.

As part of the transaction, founder Raymond Delmas will stand down as managing director and chairman, handing control of the

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| NAME | Delta Recyclage |
| DEAL | Buyout |
| VALUE | n/d (<€50m est) |
| DEBT RATIO | 1x EBITDA est |
| LOCATION | Lansargues |
| SECTOR | Waste & disposal services |
| FOUNDED | 1986 |
| TURNOVER | €41m |
| STAFF | 160 |

unquote.com/2169582

company to Pascal Rostoll, who also reinvested in the firm.

Founded in 1986 and based in Lansargues, Delta Recyclage employs 160 members of staff and reported a €41m turnover in 2011.

ADVISERS

Equity – Lamartine Conseil, Olivier Renault, Gary Levy (Legal); Grant Thornton, Thierry Dartus, Zakariya El Qotni (Financial due diligence); Burgeap, Veronique Allport (Environmental due diligence); ACP, Eric Remus, Stephanie Bournoville (Insurance due diligence).

FSI backs Arcancil Paris MBO

FSI RÉGIONS has invested €500,000 in the management buyout of Arcancil Paris.

FSI Régions provided the funding in the form of convertible bonds, drawn from the €60m FCPR AEM fund.

Current Arcancil manager Anne Delleur now owns the majority of the company's shares. HSBC and Oséo arranged a debt package to finance the transaction.

Established in 1935, Arcancil Paris is a cosmetics manufacturer headquartered in the French capital. Arcancil employs around 15 people and generates a €3.5m turnover, 65% of which is achieved outside of France.

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| NAME | Arcancil Paris |
| DEAL | MBO |
| VALUE | n/d (<€5m est) |
| LOCATION | Paris |
| SECTOR | Personal products |
| FOUNDED | 1935 |
| TURNOVER | €3.5m |
| STAFF | c15 |

unquote.com/2175592

ADVISERS

Equity – COFIGEX, Frédéric Durand, Jean-Charles Norris (Financial due diligence); PBGB, Roy Arakelian, Jessica Dillon (Legal); Moisand Boutin & Associés, Jean-Philippe Jacob, Fabio Pires (Legal).

Management – HEKLA Corporate Finance, Jérôme Duchange (Corporate finance).

Argos Expansion backs Vectis MBI

ARGOS EXPANSION has taken a 33.3% stake in the buyout of French industrial equipment rental company Vectis.

New president Jean-Christophe Porcher and a group of co-investors will hold 59% of the shares. A number of employees will hold the remaining 7.7%.

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| NAME | Vectis |
| DEAL | MBI |
| VALUE | n/d (<€50m est) |
| SECTOR | Industrial suppliers |
| FOUNDED | 1935 |
| TURNOVER | €41m |
| STAFF | 250 |

unquote.com/2173766

DEALS

unquote.com/france

Argos Expansion is part of the Argos Soditic group but operates independently from the mid-cap GP. It invested via its €45m eponymous vehicle, with a mix of equity and convertible bonds. The fund usually invests €2-10m per transaction.

CIC Nord-Ouest, Société Générale and BNP Paribas arranged a debt package to finance the acquisition.

Omnes Capital exits MGI Digital to founders

OMNES CAPITAL (formerly Crédit Agricole Private Equity) has sold its stake in listed French digital publishing firm MGI Digital Graphic to its founding family.

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| NAME | MGI Digital Graphic |
| DEAL | Exit |
| LOCATION | Ivry-sur-Seine |
| SECTOR | Publishing |
| FOUNDED | 1982 |
| VENDOR | Omnes Capital |

unquote.com/2170933

Omnes Capital provided MGI with expansion capital in 2001 to fund the international expansion of the firm and the launch of a new product range. Omnes is believed to have injected more than €25m in exchange for a 19% stake.

Founded in 1982 and based in Ivry-sur-Seine, MGI Digital Graphic designs, manufactures and sells digital presses in France and abroad.

ADVISERS

Acquirer – Cabinet Michel Marseillan Avocats (Legal).

Omnes and Demeter exit Methaneo in trade sale

OMNES CAPITAL (formerly Crédit Agricole Private Equity) and Demeter Partners have sold their joint 60% stake in Methaneo, a French developer of bio-methanisation solutions, to trade player Séchilienne Sidec.

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| NAME | Methaneo |
| DEAL | Trade sale |
| LOCATION | Paris |
| SECTOR | Renewable energy equipment |
| FOUNDED | 2007 |
| VENDOR | Omnes Capital, Demeter Partners |

unquote.com/2173919

Omnes (then Crédit Agricole Private Equity) and Demeter Partners invested €1.5m each in Methaneo in 2008. Omnes invested via its FCPR Capenergie fund, while Demeter made the first investment from its fund FCPR Demeter 2.

Following the sale, the two Methaneo founders will retain a 40% stake in the business – they were keen on partnering with an industrial player to further drive the company's development.

ACQUISITION FINANCE

CM-CIC Capital Finance backs Joncoux bolt-on

CM-CIC CAPITAL Finance has injected €4m into French portfolio company Isotip-Joncoux to help finance its acquisition of Polish chimney manufacturer MK Chimney System from Riverside.

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| NAME | Isotip-Joncoux |
| DEAL | Acquisition finance |
| VALUE | €4m |
| LOCATION | Saint-Grégoire |
| SECTOR | Building materials & fixtures |
| TURNOVER | €60m |
| STAFF | 400 |

unquote.com/2178577

CM-CIC Capital Finance has been a minority shareholder in Isotip-Joncoux (via the holding PGDI) since 2001. In addition to the equity injection, the bolt-on was financed via a senior debt package provided by LCL, CICO and CVS.

Riverside acquired MK Chimneys in January 2010 for €10m. The exit generated a 2.9x gross cash-on-cash return for the US-based investor.

ADVISERS

Equity – Gide Loyrette Nouel, Michal Kubicz (Legal); FIDAL, Laurent Drillet (Legal); SJ Berwin, David Diamand, Maxence Bloch, Mathieu Terrisse (Legal).

Company – MBA Capital, Michel Le Blay (Corporate finance).

Idinvest's Altema acquires Bagnères Industries

AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS producer Altema France SAS, an Idinvest Partners portfolio company, has wholly acquired Bagnères Industries, an assembly company for the aerospace industry.

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| NAME | Bagnères Industries |
| DEAL | Acquisition finance |
| LOCATION | Bagnères de Bigorre |
| SECTOR | Aerospace |
| FOUNDED | 1989 |
| TURNOVER | €1.2m |
| STAFF | c30 |

unquote.com/2170144

The acquisition was financed by a €1m investment from Idinvest Partners in Altema. It will strengthen Altema's service offering and is part of an acquisitive growth strategy.

Based in Bagnères de Bigorre, Bagnères Industries provides assembly services to the aeronautical sector. In 2011, the firm reported revenues of more than €1.2m. The company employs around 30 members of staff.

ADVISERS

Acquirer – UGGC, Pascal Squercioni (Legal).

Company – Critère Finance, Jacques-Henry Piot (Corporate finance).

EARLY-STAGE & EXPANSION

Naxicap takes minority stake in Homair Vacances

NAXICAP HAS bought a minority stake in listed French mobile home holiday business Homair Vacances from Montefiore Investment.

Naxicap bought a 40.8% stake in holding company Illiade, which owns 67% of Homair.

Montefiore retains a majority stake in Illiade, which it previously wholly owned. The transaction was completed based on a price of €7 per Homair share – the business currently trades at €5.73 per share – and is believed to be valued at around €30m.

Overall, Montefiore has so far reaped 3x the money invested via Montefiore Investment I, and 8x the equity drawn from Montefiore Investment II.

ADVISERS

Equity – Lamartine (Legal); Grant Thornton (Financial due diligence).

Vendor – Easton Corporate Finance (M&A); Friehe Bouhenic (Legal); Cabinet Cohen (Legal); Mayer Brown (Legal); Sekri Valentin Zerrouk (Legal); PricewaterhouseCoopers (Financial due diligence); BCG (Commercial due diligence).

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| NAME | Homair |
| DEAL | Replacement capital |
| VALUE | €30m est |
| LOCATION | Aix-en-Provence |
| SECTOR | Travel & tourism |
| TURNOVER | €61m |
| EBITDA | €20m |
| VENDOR | Montefiore Investment |

unquote.com/2172043

Serena and Partech back Lafourchette

SERENA CAPITAL and Partech International have contributed to an €8m funding round for French online restaurant reservation service Lafourchette.

The transaction gives the company an enterprise value of more than €50m, according to reports. Previous investor Otium Capital remains a majority shareholder. Otium's investment in Lafourchette totals €4m across two transactions completed in December 2008 and April 2011.

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| NAME | Lafourchette |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €8m |
| LOCATION | Paris |
| SECTOR | Internet |
| FOUNDED | 2007 |
| TURNOVER | €10m est |

unquote.com/2171931

TA acquires 30% of Zadig & Voltaire

TA ASSOCIATES has taken a 30% stake in French clothing and accessories retailer Zadig & Voltaire. The deal reportedly values Zadig & Voltaire in the region of €400m. TA aims to support the company's growth in existing and new international markets.

Paris-based Zadig & Voltaire, founded in 1995, sells clothing and accessories through 200 boutiques and corners, and generated a turnover of around €200m in 2011.

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| NAME | Zadig & Voltaire |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| LOCATION | Paris |
| SECTOR | Clothing & Accessories |
| FOUNDED | 1995 |
| TURNOVER | €200m |

unquote.com/2169824

Omnes *et al.* inject €12m into EXOSUN

OMNES CAPITAL (formerly Crédit Agricole Private Equity) has taken part in a €12m funding round for French renewable energy business EXOSUN.

Other investors include public agency ADEME as well as Crédit Agricole subsidiaries Aquitaine Expansion and Grand Sud-Ouest Capital.

Omnes had already provided EXOSUN with a €4.5m funding round in 2009. The fresh capital will be used to drive the company's growth following two years of tough trading.

Founded in 2007, EXOSUN specialises in the design, development and production of turnkey photovoltaic and thermal solar power plants equipped with solar tracking systems.

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| NAME | EXOSUN |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €12m |
| LOCATION | Martillac |
| SECTOR | Renewable energy equipment |
| FOUNDED | 2007 |
| TURNOVER | €4.7m |
| EBITDA | €2.4m loss |
| STAFF | 47 |

unquote.com/2173936

ADVISERS

Equity – Rothschild & Cie (Corporate finance); Latham & Watkins (Legal).

Management – Compagnie Financière Edmond de Rothschild (Corporate finance); Praxes Avocats (Legal).

Emertec and CDC Climat in €3m round for HPC-SA

EMERTEC AND CDC Climat have invested €3m in French energy measurement software developer HPC-SA.

Emertec invested via the Emertec 4 vehicle, a 2008 vintage that closed on €60m. CDC Climat is a subsidiary of public agency Caisse des Dépôts focusing on cleantech investments. The round was evenly split between the two investors.

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| NAME | HPC-SA |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €3m |
| LOCATION | Toulouse |
| SECTOR | Software |
| FOUNDED | 2009 |
| TURNOVER | €610,600 |
| EBITDA | €131,700 |

unquote.com/2173893

DEALS

unquote.com/france

The Toulouse-based company posted a €131,700 EBITDA on revenues of €610,600 in 2011.

ADVISERS

Equity – Bichot et Associés, Mathieu Odet, Aurélie Thomas-Magnin (Legal); PKF, Guy Castinel (Financial due diligence); Cambashi, Tony Christian, Mike Evans (Commercial due diligence).

Company – R Green, Nicolas Rochon, Adrien Boyer (Corporate finance); Cabinet Carrieu, Philippe Carrieu (Financial due diligence); Cabinet Rivière, Laëtitia Villain (Legal).

Arkeon backs NOVACYT

ARKEON GESTION has participated in a €1.5m funding round for Vélizy-based cytology company NOVACYT.

Arkeon contributed around €600,000 to the round. The investment was made through the Arkeon pre-IPO 2011 retail vehicle, which closed on €10m in 2011. Private investors provided co-investment. The capital increase will underpin the firm's international expansion.

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| NAME | NOVACYT |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €1.5m |
| LOCATION | Vélizy |
| SECTOR | Medical supplies |
| FOUNDED | 2006 |
| TURNOVER | c€1m |
| STAFF | c10 |

unquote.com/2173002

FSI and Alliance Entreprendre invest in Fabulous Garden

FSI RÉGIONS and Alliance Entreprendre have injected €1m into French outdoor furnishings company Fabulous Garden.

The business will use the fresh capital to launch new products and further develop its existing solutions. It will also aim to grow internationally.

Fabulous Garden is aiming to post a €20m turnover within the next five years, up from €3.5m today.

ADVISERS

Equity – PDGB, Roy Arakelian, Jessica Dillon (Legal); ADH Experts, Séverine Neyen (Financial due diligence); HPML, Thomas Hermetet, Anna Gassner (Legal).

Company – DSA Corporate Finance, Jean-Luc Sfez, Lionel Moldes, Albane Momponte (Corporate finance); FI-RM, Olivier Montalant (Corporate finance); Blackbird & Associés, Didier Loiseau (Legal).

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| NAME | Fabulous Garden |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €1m |
| LOCATION | Boulogne-Billancourt |
| SECTOR | Furnishings |
| FOUNDED | 2007 |
| TURNOVER | €3.5m |

unquote.com/2178286

Alven leads SoCloz funding round

ALVEN CAPITAL, Fa Dièse and a consortium of business angels have provided French pre-shopping platform SoCloz with a first round of financing.

The deal is understood to amount to €1m in total, with Alven providing €400,000 and the remainder evenly split between Fa Dièse and the business angels.

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| NAME | SoCloz |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €1m est |
| LOCATION | Asnières-sur-Seine |
| SECTOR | Internet |
| FOUNDED | 2010 |

unquote.com/2169828

ADVISERS

Equity – CVML, Arthur Dethomas, François Brocard (Legal).

Company – Clipperton Finance, Alexis Barba (Corporate finance); Charles-Philippe Letellier (Legal).

FSI injects €700,000 into Bourdoncle

FSI RÉGIONS has invested €700,000 in French diversified industrials group Bourdoncle.

The capital was provided via the OC+B fund, a €300m vehicle that invests in convertible bonds. It will enable Bourdoncle to invest in its production facilities and eventually recruit an extra 30 staff.

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| NAME | Bourdoncle |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €700,000 |
| SECTOR | Diversified industrials |
| FOUNDED | 1995 |
| TURNOVER | €4.5m |
| STAFF | 35 |

unquote.com/2172263

FSI backs Forsitec with €300,000

FSI RÉGIONS (formerly Avenir Entreprises) has invested €300,000 in French IT services provider Forsitec. The transaction will underpin the organic and acquisitive growth of the company, which aims to achieve a €15m turnover by 2017.

The investment was made through Avenir Entreprises Mezzanine, which closed in 2007 and focuses on small businesses with a turnover of more than €2m. The fund makes investments of up to €500,000.

ADVISERS

Equity – Cofigex, Jean Charles Norris, Frédéric Durand (Financial due diligence); PDGB, Madia Iliopoulou, Roy Arakelian (Legal).

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| NAME | Forsitec |
| DEAL | Expansion |
| VALUE | €300,000 |
| LOCATION | Boulogne-Billancourt |
| SECTOR | Computer services |
| TURNOVER | >€4m |
| STAFF | c50 |

unquote.com/2169856



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Trade winds blowing

Once attractive for their low costs, emerging markets are increasingly offering exit routes for European private equity houses. How important is a local presence? **Kimberly Romaine** reports



Lyndon Lea, partner at Lion Capital, says that emerging markets investors are becoming more interested in European firms

GO BACK 10 years, and talk of China and India centred around low-cost manufacturing. Now, *unquote* has recorded six sales of European private equity-backed businesses to trade buyers in these emerging markets in the last 18 months, with Lion Capital's sale of UK cereal business Weetabix to China's Bright Food for £1.2bn the latest in Europe. That week, Indian drugmaker Piramal Healthcare bought US-based healthcare data provider Decision Resources Group from

Providence Equity Partners for \$635m. A month earlier, Duke Street sold Adelie Food to India Hospitality for \$350m, and, in December 2010, Italy's Investindustrial reaped a 3.6x multiple when it sold Italmatch Chemicals to a Chinese investor, a few months after opening a Shanghai office.

At the end of last year, Shandong Heavy Industry Group bought luxury Italian yacht-maker Ferretti for €220m. The business had been backed by Arle (then Candover).

“There are numbers of companies sitting on large amounts of cash. They are being encouraged, as a matter of Chinese national policy, to have more international brands”

Jonathan Reardon, Pinsent Masons

There may be more to come, with Permira's Bird's Eye attracting interest from Thai firm Charoen Pokphand Foods in what could be a £2.5bn sale. Lion is also eyeing up another sale to an Asian trade buyer.

“Big companies in China are hungry to do deals,” says Jonathan Reardon, Pinsent Masons' head of corporate in Asia.

Bright Food approached Lion for the iconic British brand – Lion's first deal as an independent operator: “There were many approaches over the years, some of which were entertained and others which were turned away outright. So to let Weetabix go, we would have to realise a significant price or know that we could share in the continuing upside,” explains Lyndon Lea, partner at Lion Capital. Bright Food offered both: by taking a 60% stake in the deal, Lion will ultimately make at least 4.7x money, and maybe more when the remaining stake is eventually sold.

Bright Food's acquisition of Weetabix marked a high point in the acquirer's two-year quest to snap up international brands: it had previously attempted, unsuccessfully, to buy yogurt business Yoplait, sugar company Sucrogen, consumer giant United Biscuits and nutritional company GNC in the US. Its luck in Australasia was better, with two brands in its portfolio from the region.

“We will see more of this trend,” says Reardon. “There are numbers of companies – state-owned enterprises and privately owned – sitting on large amounts of cash. They are being encouraged, as a matter of Chinese national policy, to have more international brands. There are also strategic reasons, as domestic business alone becomes more challenging or the international target can add more to the Chinese domestic business through technology, for example.”

In a recent survey conducted by Grant Thornton, 46% of privately held businesses in mainland China indicated an intention to grow through acquisition over the next three years. This is up markedly from 26% a year earlier.

“Acquiring an established western brand lends authenticity to the purchaser, while the purchaser has access

to new markets and possibly more efficient manufacturing techniques to help grow profit,” says Simon Turner, managing partner at Inflexion Private Equity.

The fact that Chinese corporates are looking at private equity-backed businesses may also be an indirect consequence of changes to the UK Takeover Code, which last September made delisting a business listed in the UK more difficult – and privately held companies relatively more attractive targets. “Chinese companies are relatively new to the game of outbound expansion and acquisitions. They are learning through experience, so the more straightforward the deal and the more professional support they get, the more likely it is to complete,” says Reardon.

Who you know or what you know?

Relationships often play a big role in deals, especially in new markets – but whether the relationship requires a local presence polarises opinion. “It's extremely helpful to have a presence on the ground to identify opportunities for potential buyers of assets or acquisition and expansion opportunities,” explains Reardon.

Inflexion is the latest to have announced a presence in each of China, India and Brazil, joining the ranks of LDC, Cinven, Terra Firma, Baird and Bridgepoint in terms of an emerging markets presence. Providence established its Hong Kong and New Delhi offices in 2007 and its Beijing office earlier this year, while Summit opened an office in Mumbai in February. The GP stated its intention to increase its investment activity in India, but also that it will be used to provide support to US and European portfolio companies looking to expand in the region – namely Belkin, Ogone and Snap Fitness.

But who needs the relationship? It depends on the goals, says Daniel Domberger, director at Livingstone Partners: “If a GP intends to be very operationally involved with a target and it is seeking or has business in China or India, then it can make sense for that GP to be on the ground. It will also depend on the volume of investments the house makes.”

This is one reason it might make sense for LDC and Baird to have local presences. “Baird, for example, works closely with portfolio companies on manufacturing in China. If this is an important part of the business, then an investment from Baird, all other terms being equal, may be more attractive to a target than an equivalent offer from another private equity house.”

While some deem a local presence key to wooing trade buyers down the line, others feel the presence is likely to be more helpful to win a deal in the first place – by impressing incumbent management that you’re serious about the Asian growth story. “Simply opening an office in China will not help you get on the radar of potential trade buyers. The significant relationship is the one the potential buyer has with the management team, not the backer,” says Sean Whelan, ECI managing director, indicating announcements by some firms of regional openings may be mere marketing efforts.

WCI Consulting was sold to Indian technology firm TAKE Solutions at the beginning of last year. ECI, its backer, has no presence outside the UK and has no plans to establish any. “WCI had a relationship with TAKE two years prior to the sale,” Whelan explains – adding that relationships are important, but between management and the buyer, not the GP and buyer. “As TAKE were ultimately buying senior management, it was crucial they had a rapport. This doesn’t come overnight by issuing an investment memorandum on the desk and asking for a bid within a month.” Similar to the Weetabix sale, ECI retain a stake in WCI and so may reap further upside.

“The relationship side of things is very important. Trade buyers in India and China may be willing to take part in a process, but they prefer to build a relationship that pre-empts that process and to deal one-on-one if possible,” explains Domberger. Indeed, Livingstone was involved in the sale of WCI, while Lion worked with Bright for a full year before the deal completed.

“Clearly, when a portfolio company operates locally, it helps attract attention; that could be on either the

*“Clearly, when
a portfolio
company
operates
locally that
helps attract
attention”*

Simon Turner,
Inflexion
Private Equity

sales side or supply chain,” says Turner. “We also think that a local presence helps and the support teams we have in place will certainly help us. Particularly in the markets we focus on, local knowledge and local relationships unlock opportunities. Local corporate finance relationships are important too, but, as with all relationships, you need to keep them warm, so being in the same location is paramount.”

Long-distance relationship

“Bright Food is government-owned, so several levels of approval were needed. It also had no track record of acquisitions in Europe. Despite this, it ran smoothly,” Lea explains. And perhaps, some might say, despite Lion’s lack of any office there. The firm operates its consumer-focused business solely out of offices in North America and Europe – the two geographies it targets for investment.

“Around half our exits are done without an auction,” says Lea. “We own strategic assets, so the exit is often fairly evident. You get better speed and certainty of execution this way. Of course, with financial buyers we would usually seek intermediation, but with strategic buyers it is more straightforward.”

“We open doors through our sector focus. For example, historically we have found we can simply say to a business ‘we have similarities’ – be they pricing issues, concerns with moving a manufacturing base or maybe we’re direct competitors. It means we speak the same language and it doesn’t matter if we have a local office or not. I have been humbled and shocked by the ability to pick up the phone to some large businesses – with 14 businesses in the consumer sector we can seem not dissimilar to a consumer company the scale of Heinz to certain players. As such, a local presence – unless you are a generalist – is not necessary.”

And some say it is even a very expensive marketing effort. “Astute investors like to see ‘local presence’ if the GP’s target companies are small- and medium-sized businesses in that location,” says John Hess, chief executive of gatekeeper Altius Associates.

“I have been humbled and shocked by the ability to pick up the phone to some large businesses. As such, a local presence – unless you are a generalist – is not truly necessary”

Lyndon Lea, Lion Capital

He would know – Altius’s clients consist of 17 investors, roughly half of which are US-based.

“Investors will look at the competencies of what the GP is trying to do in its core markets,” Hess continues. “Sure, if the focus is on growth companies in Brazil, then a GP needs a local presence. But if the local presence is only to help the GP’s investee companies source a low-cost manufacturing market, then there has to be a proven value added. Sometimes I wonder if these arguments are more for marketing purposes than for substantive added value, but then I am an old sceptic.”

There are whispers of the reliability of offers from trade buyers in emerging markets, though they are dissipating, perhaps as they hone their buying skills. “We’d had a number of flirts with Indian trade buyers but it’s never come to anything. Previously they had a reputation for looking but not ever executing. So the market was largely sceptical of their ability to deliver a result. But TAKE was very honourable in their conduct,” Whelan says.

And Western advisers may help iron out any remaining wrinkles. “There is a sophisticated growing corporate finance network in Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong. There is a lot more play now between local offices there and UK/US/European offices to identify opportunities,” says Reardon.

Indeed the auction by 3i of loading equipment maker Hyva Group ultimately went to a Hong Kong consortium, but attracted at least one Chinese trade bidder. CSFB in

London was the mandated corporate financier and involved its Asian offices.

“There could have been communication breakdowns, but Bright had a very skilled adviser. Both sides had frustrations, largely down to the different cultures. It’s been educational, and tremendous patience saw us through,” Lea says.

With 40% of Lion’s skin still in the game, the deal is something of a joint venture. Says Lea: “If we took ourselves to India or China on our own accord, it would have been a very difficult start. It would have taken decades to gain traction. Any new brand entering a foreign market will be cashflow negative for some time. The relationships just aren’t there. But Bright has a ready-made distribution chain of lots of supermarkets in China. A more straight-forward joint venture would have been more complicated at the time of sale, with change of control issues, transfer pricing etc. As it stands, we have a formula in place for when it is time to sell, and a floor on the price.”

Lion has done well for its investors by selling the UK’s most iconic breakfast brand to China – but is one of a small few to have done so as a GP in Europe without a presence there. Eurozone issues are forcing down the value of the euro, making further European acquisitions more attractive for foreign buyers. “It’s extremely helpful to have a presence on the ground to identify opportunities for potential buyers of assets or acquisition opportunities. We will see more European private equity firms setting up offices in China,” Reardon says. ■

Notable European private equity exits to emerging-market buyers

| Target | Date | PE Vendor | Value | Acquirer |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Weetabix | May 2012 | Lion Capital | £1.2bn | Bright Food, China |
| Adelie Food | April 2012 | Duke Street Capital | \$350m | India Hospitality, India |
| Ferretti | January 2012 | Arle (banks) | €220m | Shandong Heavy Industry, China |
| WCI Consulting | January 2011 | ECI | n/d | TAKE Solutions, India |
| Italmatch Chemicals | December 2010 | Investindustrial | €100m | Mandarin Capital, China |

Source: unquote data”

Subjected to unstable public markets since the 2008 crisis, many quoted vehicles have seen their value fall. **John Bakie** investigates if this may change soon

Listed private equity recovery underway



Stuart Howard,
COO, HarbourVest

THE RECENT past has been tough for private equity's listed funds. Subjected to the full force of public markets during the fallout of the financial crisis, many vehicles have seen progressively dwindling share prices and deepening discounts.

Stuart Howard, chief operating officer (COO) of European listed products at HarbourVest, and a 3i veteran, believes this may end soon, saying the tide is turning for listed private equity. While funds suffered in the wake of Lehman Brothers' collapse, the recovery is now beginning. "HVPE (HarbourVest Global Private Equity) listed in 2007, and while net asset value (NAV) has climbed some 35%, shares slipped from a starting price of \$10 down to around \$5. Now they are starting to recover and are trading nearer to \$7," he explains.

Howard believes the key to reducing the discount gap and improving investor interest in listed private equity is better communication by the industry. "Private equity has been very private and not open enough, but we need to explain this distinct asset class to investors," he says.

Since joining HarbourVest in January, Howard has held some 80 meetings with investors, brokers, journalists and trade bodies to further the message about what listed private equity is and how it can benefit a portfolio.

Listed Private Equity's (LPEQ) Ross Butler agrees with Howard's strategy of educating investors: "We're dedicated to raising awareness of private equity in listed markets, and we have made a lot of progress in this area since LPEQ was founded in 2006."

Confusion about what listed private equity is, and how it differs from other alternative assets, can be a key barrier to investment. "I have spent a lot of time explaining to investors that private equity is not overvalued, and it's not all about fees on top of fees," says Howard. Many investors naturally tend to compare private equity to hedge funds, but Howard says they often fail to realise that fee structures are largely the same and the private equity model makes returns in a very different way to a hedge fund. "Debunking myths is a key part of what we are doing," he adds.

Investors may also be put off by the poor performance of a number of funds following the financial crisis. As the Five-year %NAV performance table (*see below-left*) shows, some of the biggest post-crisis names in listed private equity have seen NAV collapse since 2007. These high-profile cases will have spooked many investors and have led to discounts widening to 60% or more at the bottom of the market.

However, with discounts starting to close, many public market investors may be getting over their fear of the asset class. Jock Green-Armytage, part of JZ Capital Partners' (JZCP) European team, says: "The large discount is largely the result of an overreaction to some poorly performing, iconic funds. Investors are starting to realise that many of the funds that did badly were over-committed and under-resourced when the crisis hit, which is not the case for many other funds."

Talk alone is not enough to convince investors; listed funds also need to demonstrate that they can return money to investors. Deep discounts to NAV seen after the collapse of Lehman Brothers could be beneficial to investors.

"The discount to NAV has widened dramatically. Having historically sat at a percentage discount in the mid-teens, today funds are trading at an average discount of more than

| Five-year %NAV performance* | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Firm | Performance |
| 3i | -72.30% |
| Candover | -50.22% |
| SVG Capital | -51.40% |
| F&C PE | 23.41% |
| Electra | 18.16% |
| HgCapital Trust | 58.86% |

* Selected funds, May 2007 to YTD
Source: Morningstar

"I have spent a lot of time explaining to investors that private equity is not overvalued, and it's not all about fees on top of fees"

Stuart Howard, HarbourVest

30%, and listed private equity has not seen a recovery in line with the rest of the stock market," says Butler. While this may have caused concern among investors, it also offers them the chance to obtain shares at a deep discount and benefit from significant uplift over the long-term.

However, for some public-market investors, the prospect of distant capital gains may be less tempting than obtaining significant yield. "There's a pretty big focus on yield in the investment world at the moment," Butler says.

Show me the dividend

Some listed funds are already exploring options to pay dividends on a more regular basis. F&C Private Equity recently announced it would seek to do so, equivalent to 4% of NAV. The news was met with a sudden rise in the fund's share price and reduction in its discount, though it is unclear whether this change was due to good performance figures or the revised dividend offer.

In May, JZCP followed in F&C's footsteps, announcing it would pay a dividend calculated at 3% of NAV per annum, representing a yield at discount of approximately 5% (based on 16 May share prices). This too was met with an increase in share price and closing of the discount gap.

Green-Armytage says: "[The dividend] does have an effect on investor sentiment. At our current share price, this is equivalent to a 5% yield, which is difficult to get at the moment."

David Macfarlane, chairman of JZCP, adds: "For investors, being paid an income while you wait until you can realise your capital increase is an attractive prospect."

However, despite investor appetite for yield at the moment, listed private equity is, and will remain, an asset class that is primarily focused on capital growth over

income, and those investing should expect a long-term commitment.

"There are a number of funds now looking at dividend payments as a method of discount control," says Butler, "but those investing in listed private equity should be focused on the potential for capital gain."

Green-Armytage agrees that capital growth is still the primary driver in private equity investment: "The dividend is a good way of smoothing out the discount but will not close the gap on its own."

Figures from LPX (*see below*) show how listed private equity funds have, over the long-term, significantly outperformed other benchmarks, and with many funds currently selling at a discount of around 30%, there are significant opportunities for uplift over and above the achievement of NAV. With a number of funds now seeing exits in their underlying portfolios, listed funds will be hopeful investors will start to come on board again as they see funds demonstrate the real value being created in their portfolios. ■

| Total return performance to period ending 20 April 2012 | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| | 1 year | 3 year | 5 year | 10 year |
| LPX Europe NAV | 3.52% | 35.08% | -7.3% | 41.29% |
| LPX Europe | -12.51% | 91.22% | -46.84% | 8.01% |
| MSCI World | 7.17% | 60.25% | -4.41% | 10.82% |
| MSCI Europe | -4.1% | 50.81% | -20.71% | 16.68% |
| FTSE All Share | 7.31% | 76.89% | -11.69% | 24.51% |
| S&P500 Composite | 16.18% | 72.56% | 6.59% | 0.74% |

Source: LPX

Three-quarters of European investors intend to sell their private equity assets within the next two years, according to research by Collier Capital. **Olivier Marty** explores the drivers behind the trend

Secondaries boom unlikely to end soon

THE RISE of global secondaries transactions, estimated to reach an aggregate value of between €25-30bn this year, up from €20bn in 2010 and €25bn in 2011, seems set to continue.

Familiar drivers – portfolio management as well as regulatory pressures affecting banks and insurance companies – will mean Europe will host the bulk of secondary assets to be sold within the next two years. Roughly half of investors expect to sell US private equity assets and 35% intend to sell Asian ones within the next two years, but this proportion stands at a staggering 76% for European assets, according to recent research presented by Francois Aguerre of Collier Capital at this year's annual AFIC gathering in Paris.

"The prominent UK and French markets continue to be fuelled by banks and insurance companies, whereas public pension funds represent the largest category of sellers in the US," says Nicolas Lanel, managing director and head of UBS's European secondary market advisory. Marleen Groen, chief executive and founder at Greenpark Capital agrees: "Many pension funds are also waiting for further clarity on the implications

of the Occupational Pension Funds Directive upon their private equity holdings," and fear renewed recessions in some European countries.

But might the regulatory constraints affecting European banks and insurance companies be overstated? "While Basel III is certainly an important factor, banks are taking a fundamental look at their business strategy in the current economic environment and thinking hard about more efficient ways to deploy capital," argues Bernhard Engelen, managing director of secondaries advisory business Cogent Partners. EVCA head of external relations James Burnham corroborates: "We expect there to be no change to the regulatory treatment of private equity [in CRD IV] as per the original 2006 capital requirements directive aligned with Basel II [enabling] banks to achieve a capital charge as low as 15.2% on private equity."

Also, the effects of Solvency II may not be as stark as feared: even though small companies implementing the standard model are likely to be more affected than the larger ones, most seem to have got to grips with the unusual package and realise holding



"Banks are taking a fundamental look at their business strategy"

Bernhard Engelen,
Cogent Partners

illiquid and rather low-risk private equity assets is not so bad. Roger Johanson, head of venture capital and infrastructure investments at Skandia Life, shares this view: "Whether or not Solvency II will have an adverse impact on private equity allocation also depends on the broader financial and macroeconomic environment, rather than on the package itself. LPs that have a wide experience of private equity investments are barely affected."

A market unlikely to slow soon

Many trends are still providing impetus to the market, particularly regulatory pressure on financial institutions. While the bulk of the clean-up has already taken place in the US, there remains considerable work to be done in Europe, including in the UK. In mainland Europe, many of the large French programmes have already been restructured or sold, while Germany still offers the potential for some large transactions.

The expected wall of refinancing will also affect the industry, reducing the opportunities for exits and therefore distributions. Signs of GPs restructuring are likely to surface more frequently as well, according to both Lanel and Groen, as was recently

illustrated by the spin-off of Omnes Capital (*see page 52*). “But the need for an attractive strategy and the stamina required will limit the number of successful spin-offs,” warns Groen.

How are these settings going to impact the type, quality and price of assets? “Investors are retrenching from the riskier scopes of European private equity, still favouring the dominance of the large buyout funds from the bubble years (estimated to reach a total of \$440bn) where the quality of assets and predictability of exits are best,” says Collier Capital’s Aguerre.

The balance between direct secondaries and traditional secondaries may shift. “Banks have understandably started their disposal programmes with funds’ portfolios but as the inventory of plain-vanilla assets decreases, the proportion of secondary directs will inevitably increase,” argues Lanel.

Groen agrees but states that “directs must have substantially higher expected returns to be worthwhile to invest in, whereas often the quality of the directs portfolios and the managers are less attractive or unproven”.

Against this background, and considering the large amount of capital raised by secondaries funds, pricing should continue to prove resilient: UBS estimates that around \$35bn of dedicated dry powder was available to buyers at the beginning of this year. For the most part, this capital was in the hands of a few large participants, with 20 of the top buyers holding an estimated 85% of that total, and 18 of them each having more than \$1bn at their disposal.

Whether this would favour secondaries pure players like Collier or Greenpark, or hybrid players like AlpInvest, Partners Group or HarbourVest, who are all actively raising, remains to be seen. “GPs generally have a clear preference for buyers that have both primary and secondary capital,” says Cogent’s Engelen, but this of course only works if new primary investments are actually made available. Given the secondaries volume available, the number deals of actually executed is relatively low. Says Lanel: “Ultimately, managers have come to accept that there need not be a stigma associated with one of their LPs having to sell!” ■

Lack of distributions continues to fuel secondaries as capital calls increase

Greg Gille reports

GPs are still calling on more capital than they are returning to LPs, according to recent research by Triago. The advisory firm expects calls to climb to 11% of committed capital in 2012 from 10% last year, with distributions dropping to 7% from 9%.

Granted, last year showed a healthy increase in divestment activity across Europe, as GPs faced the pressure of returning cash before raising a new vehicle – exit volumes increased by almost 20% from 2010 to 2011, according to *unquote* data. But record amounts of dry powder following the 2008-2009 drought meant managers were also ramping up their investment activity, particularly in the first half of 2011.

Triago managing partner Mathieu Dréan feels this factor partly drove secondaries activity last year and is likely to remain a feature in 2012 as LPs are looking to reallocate their funds to upcoming vintages or new strategies. “Distributions are still subdued, which partly explains the popularity of secondaries as they speed up the process and create much needed cash-back opportunities,” says Dréan. “They therefore address a crucial point that still taints LP/GP relations: duration. This is especially sensitive as the downturn has clearly led to longer holding periods, while at the same time a large number of GPs are asking their investors to re-up.”

This trend is not expected to abate in the coming months as the exit market remains tough for GPs to navigate. “One should not expect

divestment activity to significantly take off in 2012. There are still weaknesses in all exit channels. Many portfolio companies are not ready for a sale yet – their valuations are still too low to enable GPs to reap positive returns,” warned Bain & Company associate Daphné Vattier while commenting on the firm’s latest private equity outlook in a statement.

The secondaries option is even more tempting for LPs when sustained buy-side appetite means that discounts to NAV have barely been affected by last year’s market turmoil and still sit firmly in the single digit range. Discounts widened slightly between September and December, reaching 8% on average, according to Triago. “We have witnessed an uptick in prices since then and current discounts are a couple of points below those seen in the second half of 2011,” notes Dréan.

Sales motivated by regulatory constraints generated slightly more than half of overall dealflow last year, according to recent research by Collier Capital. Though it should be noted, not all firms selling their assets for regulatory reasons are distressed.

Dréan believes distressed sellers are likely to contribute less to the secondaries market in months to come as the most acute cases have already been – or will soon be – addressed: “Distressed sellers are a relatively minor source of dealflow. Other types of sellers are increasingly active in the market as the issue of portfolio maturity takes centre stage.”

Rules on the use of depositaries prescribed by the AIFM Directive could be hit by a lack of suitable institutions, with many saying moves to offer such a service face a number of regulatory and financial challenges. **Anneken Tappe** reports

AIFMD: Concerns over lack of suitable depositaries

THE IMPLEMENTATION
deadline for the AIFM Directive is rapidly approaching and, with it, the need for private equity houses to use depositaries to protect investors. But firms hoping to offer this kind of service are being faced with numerous obstacles that could make implementation difficult.

One firm considering offering such a service is UK private equity fund administrator Ipes. However, Ipes is concerned that existing rules will make it difficult, if not impossible, to secure the required insurance.

“For depositaries, the line to being held strictly liable is drawn too harshly. It is a ‘guilty before proven innocent’ regime, which is spooking depositaries and insurers. Without such insurance, it might be impossible for any firm but the multinational banks to provide this service, some of whom have experienced financial instability in recent years,” says Justin Partington, commercial director at Ipes.

Aside from firms like Ipes, major European banks have been touted as potential suppliers of depositary services, particularly French banks

as existing financial legislation in the country is close to that of the AIFMD. The French banking sector, however, has been hit hard by the eurozone crisis, mostly due to its extremely high exposure to sovereign debt in the eurozone’s periphery. Some have questioned the wisdom of having institutions that already have stressed balance sheets taking on the role of safekeeping investor funds on a massive scale. This has the potential to further concentrate systemic risk in a few major institutions.

The news has once again led to questions over the suitability of introducing mandatory depositary rules on the private equity industry. “In private equity, there is no standard custodian role,” said Ben Robins of Mourant Ozannes at the recent *Legal Week* Private Equity Forum; many in the industry see the new requirement as unnecessary.

The AIFMD’s concept of custodians is taken from securities trading. In the EU, the Central Securities Depositories (CSDs) are regulated to streamline and harmonise the process of securities trading across the continent.

“For depositaries, the line to being held strictly liable is drawn too harshly. It is a ‘guilty before proven innocent’ regime”

Justin Partington,
Ipes

Depositaries offer book entry services – an electronic register – which dematerialises the trading process, making it more efficient. Another very important part of CSDs is clearance and settlement. The idea of an obligatory use of depositaries in private equity was introduced around 2007 to add a layer of investor and ultimately consumer protection.

However, private equity transactions differ substantially from securities trading and critics say a depositary structure modelled for the latter is unlikely to fit the business model of the former. EVCA argued that depositaries risk an interference with the investment decision, which would translate into a concern for both the investor and fund manager. Private equity depositaries would also have the obligation of oversight of a fund’s activities, says James Greig, partner in the financial services and regulatory practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Effectively, depositaries would be asked to pre-clear transactions; this could not only slow down the buy and sell process, but also impose a disruptive force on funds’ strategies. ■

EU assets remain attractive despite euro crisis

Despite worries about Greece, Spain and Italy, US investors have demonstrated a continued appetite for European assets.

Anneken Tappe reports

THE EUROPEAN market is a harsh place at the moment. With worries about the Greek economy being transformed into concerns about the specific costs of a Greek exit from the monetary union, the euro has seen a significant loss in value. While this has reduced the price of European assets, it also makes for an incredibly volatile investment environment.

Despite this, US investors appear to have refocused their attention on the crisis-ridden continent. While economic conditions have worsened, causing headline valuations to decline, corporate profit margins have continuously risen over the past 30 years, according to research by Goldman Sachs Asset Management. This could be an indicator that even though volatility has skyrocketed, the general quality of the European assets on the market did not deteriorate.

“European assets are generally a tough sell right now. But those investors who have been in the markets over the long term can and will still invest. So there is an appetite, but it is for the contrarians who can take a 5-10 year view,” says Graeme Gunn of SL Capital in an interview with *unquote*.”

Many large North American LPs, such as CalPERS, are experienced private equity investors and follow a long-term strategy. For these investors, taking a position that is currently considered contrarian should be attractive and probably still less risky than diverting to emerging markets.

US firm Vista Equity Partners just closed its fourth fund on \$3.5bn and recently invested more than half of it in the £1.27bn buyout of UK capital markets and banking services company Misys, which was taken private in March.

Christopher Flowers, chief executive of US private equity firm JC Flowers, recently made headlines with his

relocation to the UK. His firm owns ex-KBC insurance unit Fidea in Belgium and has a particular focus on distressed financial institutions. Considering the recent surge of spinouts from financial institutions, this sector is likely to see increased activity in the near future.



“European assets are a tough sell right now. But those investors who have been in the markets over the long term can and will still invest”

Graeme Gunn, SL Capital

Buyers' market

While the eurozone crisis has had a severe impact on Western European economies, it has also driven prices down, which creates opportunities for investors. Europe's private equity market is likely to survive on the coattails of low valuations and a lack of liquidity.

Moreover, American LPs have long-standing ties to the European markets – ties which are now more important than ever. New regulations, such as Solvency II and Basel III, are restricting commitments of insurers and banks. With local players also exposed to the eurozone crisis, foreign capital is becoming vital for European firms. ■

Company valuations going down

Poor visibility has finally taken its toll on entry multiples for lower mid-cap LBO transactions. But valuations are still holding up despite the collapse in buyout activity over the past six months. **Greg Gille** reports

Argos: Mid-cap valuations register modest drop

THE MEDIAN EBITDA multiple paid in European lower mid-cap private equity buyouts – here defined as businesses in the €15-150m range – fell to 7.4x for the six months to March 2012, according to the latest Argos Mid-Market Index. This is down slightly from the 7.7x median registered in H2 2011 and still above the 7.3x witnessed in the first half of last year.

Lower mid-cap LBO activity remained particularly subdued in Q1 this year.

According to *unquote* data, such transactions fell by a quarter in volume and a third in value compared to the last three months of last year, which already witnessed a sudden drop compared to the rest of 2011.

Vote of confidence

Argos Soditic partner Karel Kroupa notes that financing remains an issue hampering dealflow, but highlights another major factor: confidence. “Visibility on company performance remains poor in most cases,” he says. “Even for healthy and growing businesses, it remains tough to predict what activity will be like in six months’ time. Investors therefore tend to remain cautious and highly selective.”

That the median entry multiple only fell by 5.3% shows that the few assets that did change hands were deemed robust and promising enough to command substantial price tags. “Quite a few LBO players still have capital to put to work. Few deals get done, but those that do go through are for the very best assets,” notes Kroupa. “This ‘flight-to-quality’ phenomenon



“Quite a few LBO players still have capital to put to work. Few deals get done, but those that do go through are for the very best assets”

Karel Kroupa, Argos Soditic

– even though it is becoming less prominent – partly explains why multiples haven’t dropped more while activity has clearly taken a step back.”

For the fourth semester in a row, private equity players have also paid higher multiples than trade buyers: the median multiple in corporate M&A transactions fell to 7.2x EBITDA, compared to 7.6x in H2 2011. This is the first time for more than two years that multiples paid by trade players have decreased in the index.

But again, valuations have held up surprisingly well given that corporate M&A activity was just as lacklustre as private equity-backed buyout dealflow in the first quarter.

“Strategic buyers still enjoy decent reserves of cash and historically low levels of debt. We have witnessed them coming back to the market in recent weeks and displaying a strong appetite for acquisitions,” explains Kroupa. “That said, it has not resulted in substantial dealflow yet, since corporate M&A also registered a sharp drop in Q1 this year.” ■

Company valuations going down

Private companies rethink pricing

The recession has had little effect on company valuations, but now companies are becoming more realistic about their value, writes **John Bakie**

DESPITE RECESSION and turmoil in the financial markets, company valuations have remained stubbornly high. While high valuations can be a boon to sales processes for private equity houses, they can also hamper dealflow. However, those on the ground say the trend is now turning in the acquirer's favour.

"We felt a change in the investment climate in September last year. The euro crisis cut off a rally of recovery abruptly and shareholders started to become realistic about the value of their businesses," says David Barbour, co-head of FF&P Private Equity.

The sentiment chimes with Argos Sodic's findings (*see left*), which indicate valuations fell across Europe's mid-market in the first quarter of 2012 from an average of 7.7x to 7.4x.

But the picture is inconsistent, with many businesses continuing to attract relatively high valuations despite the many economic problems currently facing Europe. Barbour, who is primarily focused on smaller UK buyouts and growth capital, says non-owner managed businesses tend to be more likely to cut their valuation: "In a lot of businesses, shareholders are taking a portfolio view and are now coming into the market looking to

gain liquidity. Often we see businesses with a number of shareholders with many looking to exit, and the rest can be rolled over into the buyout structure," he explains. By contrast, owner-managed and family owned businesses have tended to be far more sticky on their pricing, holding out for a better price. For those who do not need liquidity and place a premium on the value of the businesses they have built up, it is unlikely they will drop valuations unless they have to.

Some business owners will no doubt be eyeing up corporates who have hoarded cash during the downturn and are now looking at acquisition opportunities to help them grow, putting pressure on private equity buyers in the deal room. "Corporates are competing a lot more on deals today, and have lots of cash on their books. Private equity buyers have to work a lot harder to find the types of opportunity they need," says Jeremy Rayment, director at Menzies Corporate Finance.

Cash-rich corporates can certainly afford to pay for highly valued businesses. However, they tend to be looking for those businesses that are very much pre-packaged, and can be added on to their existing businesses



"Shareholders are taking a portfolio view and are now coming into the market looking to gain liquidity"

David Barbour,
FF&P Private
Equity

with minimal disruption. This is where private equity bidders should see an opening to buy businesses that are a little rough around the edges to refine and sell on to corporate bidders. Obtaining exclusivity and avoiding auction processes will also be important for firms looking to capitalise on lower valuations.

"Relationships and value-add are key elements in the UK lower mid-market. Private equity firms need to emphasise their style to vendors, as well as experience they may have through their existing portfolio," adds Rayment. Putting in the effort to build a relationship and put forward a solid business plan before a first meeting with a management team could pay dividends for private equity buyers, giving them an edge over corporate bidders.

With the euro crisis unlikely to be resolved soon, confidence will continue to be hit. But the impact on valuations will not be so clear cut and hard work and due diligence will be key to acquiring the right business at the right price. As one market player recently told *unquote*: "In 2007 every business had a high valuation. In 2012, lots of businesses also have a high valuation, but they have to be very high-quality businesses to sell." ■

Increased competition for specialised private equity legal professionals has resulted in a highly competitive recruitment market over the past year. **Amy King** investigates

Lawyers: your most valuable asset?

THE CURRENT employment market for private equity legal professionals is remarkably dynamic. “Over the last year on the fund formation side, there has been significant market disruption,” says recent Proskauer Rose hire Kate Simpson, who joined the firm last year, alongside SJ Berwin’s Nigel van Zyl and Oliver Rochman, to form a fund structuring team. Whole teams have been poached and partners have hopped from firm to firm, some more than once.

Proskauer’s three hires echoed that of Weil Gotshal & Manges, who pinched a four-strong fund formation team from Clifford Chance a month earlier. More conspicuous though was Dewey & LeBoeuf’s short-term appointment of Mark Davis and Russell Van Praagh (*see box, following page*). Hired from Taylor Wessing to launch the firm’s private equity practice, the pair jumped ship to rival practice McDermott Will & Emery after just a year. They joined the mass exodus of more than 100 partners from the firm, before it sank under the weight of bank and bond debts.

Unfortunately for Dewey & LeBoeuf, in the absence of physical assets the true value of a private practice lies in its partners, the constituent parts of a firm’s brand. While this can be argued of legal practitioners in general, the nature of private equity legal work in particular enhances the value of the individual lawyer.

Long-term relationships

“Fund formation work is long-haul. You become very ingrained with the client, their fund documents, internal corporate documents and carried interest arrangements,” explains Simpson. “And once developed, that relationship is vested in a limited number of people.” Partners are the real assets, and partners can move.

What’s more, the relationship between a GP and a legal professional is often far more enduring than its relationship with any particular legal firm. “There is a lot more loyalty now towards individual lawyers than towards brands,” says Claire Wilkinson, general counsel at MVision and founder of the Private Equity Lawyers Forum. “When it comes to individual loyalty, private equity is at the far end of the spectrum because the teams that are needed to raise a fund in a law firm provide a fairly niche service,” she adds. “A fund is a very long instrument, so if you instruct a lawyer in private practice, you will tend to stay with that lawyer for the entire life of the fund and return to them for secondaries.” Given this recent downturn in M&A activity, the longevity of the relationship is reason enough for recently bolstered private equity teams within private practices.

The last year’s hiring spree is not the first of its kind. With the introduction of the Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA) in 2000, many private equity houses saw their incumbent CFOs overburdened and took on new hires. “It was due to increased regulation and the globalisation of deals then, so you needed someone in-house to act as procurement officer,” explains Wilkinson.

A decade later, amid a financial downturn that has seen recruitment slump and headcounts shrink, private equity has bucked the trend in financial services and continued to hire legal professionals.

The reason for this wave is upcoming regulation. As the implementation of the AIFM Directive is imminent, lawyers are having to future-proof documents for upcoming changes and prepare clients for compliance. Add to that the regulations that will soon ricochet into the industry from other financial services – such as Dodd Frank, Solvency II and FATCA – and legal professionals become invaluable.



"There is a lot more loyalty now towards individual lawyers than towards brands... if you instruct a lawyer in private practice, you will tend to stay with that lawyer for the entire life of the fund"

Claire Wilkinson, MVision

"The broad trend here is that compliance is a much bigger issue for the industry and governance issues in general are becoming more important," highlights Nick Hedley, founding partner of executive search firm Hedley May. "Therefore, more private equity funds are having to bolster their legal and compliance teams."

Since failure to comply will incur fines at best and revocation of authorisations at worst, the a mid-level compliance professional appears to represent an increasingly wise investment for a private equity house. "As a result, we have seen an increasing number of lawyers with 7-10 years' experience being hired by private equity firms to deal with compliance and regulatory issues," says Wilkinson.

A second reason for the contemporary competition for legal professionals could lie in the widening eyes of US investors, whose focus is falling to European markets. "US firms have started to move more strategically into the European markets, firstly because they want to be in Europe but also because they see it as a gateway into Asia," says Simpson. "As a result, fund formation houses are looking for international counsel that can manage US

and European elements." Indeed, a number of the recent moves have involved lawyers from Europe-focused practices moving to firms with a wider, international focus.

Industry changes have incurred a shift in industry ethics too. "Lawyers as a whole have become more influential because nowadays the industry has got more complex from a regulatory, investor and reputational standpoint," summarises Hedley. "Thinking back to the historical model, this used to be a fairly unregulated, cloak-and-dagger sector. And, I suppose, the ethical dimension of investment has also increased. A lot of those issues fall broadly into the remit and concerns of a lawyer," he adds.

Moving in-house

Perhaps then, regulatory changes and the shifts they incur make private equity a particularly suitable environment in which the legal professional may excel. The migration of certain in-house lawyers into more corporate roles would support this argument. Tim Pryce is the most notable example, joining Terra Firma as general counsel before becoming chief executive in 2009. Buchan Scott of Duke Street began in a legal role, before taking over investor relations and fundraising, while Andrew Sandars of LDC began as head of legal and risk management and is now operations director. Similarly, Guy Semmens joined Argos Soditic in a legal capacity and now heads up the firm's Swiss operations. Examples abound.

Regulatory, ethical and focal changes within private equity appear to grant legal professionals with an increasingly important role. As such they have become a much coveted asset. With the imminent introduction of strict and complex regulation, no doubt those who invested in recent hires will hope for high returns. ■

Casualty of the Great Recession

In late May, Dewey & LeBoeuf filed for bankruptcy in the US, concluding its demise. The move nudged the UK operations into administration, despite operating through a separately incorporated entity. In documents submitted with the Chapter 11 filing, the firm highlighted the "Great Recession" alongside lucrative pay it guaranteed to high-profile hires as major factors in its downfall.

BDO will act as administrator for the firm's London and Paris offices. In the US, restructuring firm Zolfo Cooper will work with Togut Segal & Segal as bankruptcy counsel.

Opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe

Alpha Associates' Petra Salesny talks to **John Bakie** about the nuances in Central and Eastern Europe's dealflow and the effect of established European economies struggling with debt

John Bakie: What sort of criteria are you looking for when selecting investments?

Petra Salesny: We pursue a threefold investment strategy with our Central & Eastern Europe (CEE) funds-of-funds: we make primary commitments, buy mature fund interests in secondary transactions, and make direct co-investments.

In our primary portfolio we are looking to invest in a diversified range of funds operating in the upper and lower mid-market, as well as the small end of the market in CEE. The overriding theme for private equity investing in these countries is businesses that serve the needs of the growing middle class. We primarily look at funds investing in buyouts and later-stage expansion financing. We feel venture in CEE is currently not worth allocating to as there are very few successful funds in this area.

Secondaries are an important part of our strategy and we are uniquely positioned to access secondary opportunities in CEE and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Typically, we source and negotiate transactions privately. We've seen many distressed sellers after the crisis.

JB: Are there a lot of struggling investors?

PS: Immediately after the financial crisis, many investors sought to, or needed to, liquidate what they could in order to reduce their commitments.

Today, sellers are not as distressed as they were and more of the activity is driven by regulatory changes. Banks and insurance companies looking to comply with Basel III and Solvency II are major sellers now.

JB: Some Western European fund managers have come under fire over the 2 & 20 pricing model. Is this also an issue for LPs investing in CEE?

PS: For us, it's about generating absolute net returns that are attractive; fees are taken into account when assessing this.

In CEE we don't really have the huge funds, like in Western Europe, the US or also some other emerging markets, which create concern over the hefty management fees. CEE private equity is a middle-market player and its managers are not going to make themselves rich off management fees.

JB: Which geographies and sectors across CEE are the most interesting for you at the moment?

PS: CEE is not a homogenous region and this is something that the financial crisis has further highlighted.

Russia aside, Poland and the Czech Republic are the strongest economies in the CEE region and have recovered well from the crisis; in fact Poland was the only country throughout Europe which grew through the crisis. Countries like Romania take a bit longer to recover and Hungary has numerous home-made problems. The countries we feel are most interesting to invest in right now are Poland, Russia, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Turkey is also interesting but there is a risk it could be overheating.

In terms of sectors, the strongest dealflow comes from IT, consumer products and services, telecommunications, financial services, industrials and healthcare. These are also our main exposures. ■



"CEE private equity is a middle-market player and its managers are not going to make themselves rich off management fees"

Petra Salesny,
Alpha Associates

McDermott picks up Dewey & Leboeuf duo

LAW FIRM McDermott Will & Emery has appointed Mark Davis and Russell Van Praagh as partners in the firm's London offices.

Davis will head the firm's private equity practice in London. The pair joined the firm after a year at Dewey & Leboeuf. They have worked together since 2007.

Davis focuses on cross-border deals, LBOs, exits and M&A transactions. He is lead counsel to several private equity funds and their portfolios, and has experience of a range of sectors including energy, chemicals and consumer goods. Davis also has advisory experience in the Middle East and Africa.

Van Praagh has private equity and investment advisory experience for both investors and management. He has advised on M&A, joint ventures and general corporate and commercial issues. He has experience of sectors including automotive, retail and energy in the US and Europe.

David Goldman, partner and head of McDermott's corporate advisory practice group, said of the recent appointments: "As McDermott continues to expand its global corporate capabilities, private equity continues to be a key area of focus for the firm. With these additions to our well-established private equity practice, we have further strengthened our position in Europe."

DFJ Esprit appoints venture partner

DFJ ESPRIT has hired Peter Keen as a new venture partner, specialising in medical technology and life science investments.

Keen co-founded Chiroscience Group and subsequently helped establish the venture capital firm Merlin Biosciences. On leaving Merlin, he became chief financial officer of pharmaceutical company Arakis.

Keen is currently a non-executive director of Horizon Discovery and Q-Chip, chairman at Oval Medical Technologies, senior independent director at Abcam and a non-executive director of Ark Therapeutics Group and the Biotech Growth Trust.



Peter Keen, venture partner, DFJ Esprit

Maven names new investment director

MAVEN CAPITAL Partners has hired Ben Bolt as investment director.

Bolt will work in Maven's Midlands and Southern England team, and will be based out of the Birmingham and London offices. There, he will focus on sourcing and executing new investment opportunities in UK companies requiring £2-10m of equity.

Bolt joins from Catapult Venture Managers, where he spent the past three years as investment director. Prior to this he held a similar role at Kaupthing. Bolt also worked at Deloitte earlier in his career.



Ben Bolt, investment director, Maven

Altius adds to infrastructure team

ALTIUS ASSOCIATES has appointed Reyno Norval to the firm's real assets and global infrastructure teams in London.

In his new role, Norval will source new potential funds, carry out due diligence, monitor investments, prepare reports for clients and manage and assist research projects.

Norval joins the firm from Green Gas Americas, where he was a project developer, responsible for originating and developing investments in landfill gas and energy within the US and Latin America. There he specialised in equity investments, acquisitions and project financing.

Prior to his position at Green Gas, Norval was a commercial analyst at EDF Energy in London, where he identified financial risk associated with investments, carried out due diligence and made investment recommendations.

Altius is a private equity advisory and fund-of-funds firm that invests via buyout, venture capital, mezzanine, secondaries and distressed funds. The company invests globally and has offices in London, Virginia in the US and Singapore.

Ingenious Media expands corporate finance team

INGENIOUS MEDIA has recruited new corporate financiers David Brooks and Toby Ramsden, both of whom will join as managing directors.

Brooks has been appointed co-head of corporate finance, alongside Nick Harvey, the current head of Ingenious Corporate Finance. Both Brooks and Ramsden join from IBIS Capital.

EADS chief exec Louis Gallois to join FSI board

LOUIS GALLOIS, the chief executive of European aerospace and defence corporation EADS, is due to join the board of French sovereign wealth fund Fonds Stratégique d'Investissement (FSI), according to French daily newspaper *Les Echos*.

Gallois will take over the role from Denis Ranque, who joined the FSI board a year ago. He left EADS at the end of May and Airbus's Tom Enders replaced him as chief executive.

Launched in 2008, FSI is a €20bn vehicle 49% funded by the state. Its mission is to back rapidly-growing, competitive French companies in need of financing – investing directly or as an LP in traditional PE vehicles.



Louis Gallois,
board member, FSI

Cipolletta replaces long-time AIFI president

THE ITALIAN private equity and venture capital association, AIFI, has appointed Professor Innocenzo Cipolletta as president.

The new appointment replaces Giampio Bracchi after three terms as president.

Cipolletta held the presidency of Italian business newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore* from 2004-2007 and was chief executive of Italian employers federation Confindustria from 1990-2000. He is currently president of the University of Trento.

Cipolletta has written various academic papers and newspaper articles, and published a book on the global financial crisis.



Innocenzo Cipolletta,
president, AIFI

Lloyds announces six senior promotions

LLOYDS' ACQUISITION finance team has promoted six professionals to senior positions across Europe.

Mark Craig was promoted to managing director, while Joëlle Antmann and Riëlla Hollander were appointed senior directors in its Paris and Amsterdam offices, respectively.

Craig, Antmann and Hollander joined the firm in 2006, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

In addition, Ivo Kroschel, based in the Frankfurt office, and Emeric Hudault and Matthew Ward, both located in London, have been promoted to director positions.

Associate director Rob Klijn has joined the Amsterdam office.

Duane Morris expands private equity practice in Europe with hire

LAW FIRM Duane Morris has hired Pierfrancesco Carbone as a partner in its London office. The appointment marks the expansion of Duane Morris's private equity group into Europe.

Carbone will focus on cross-border corporate transactions, particularly in the area of private equity. He will advise his private equity clients on a range of transactions including venture investments, buy-and-build deals, mid- and large-cap leveraged buyouts and public-to-privates.

Carbone joins from Kirkland & Ellis. He started working at the firm as an associate in 2007 before becoming partner in 2008.



Pierfrancesco Carbone,
partner, Duane Morris

Riverside names firm's first president

GLOBAL PRIVATE equity firm Riverside has appointed Jamie Kiggen as president, a newly-created role. He joins from Blackstone, where he worked as senior managing director and headed Blackstone's and played a technology investment role in the firm's private equity group.

Prior to that, Kiggen held roles at AllianceBernstein, DLJ, McKinsey and Wellington. He started his career as an entrepreneur in the software industry.

Kiggen will be based in Riverside's New York office. His responsibilities include chairing the Riverside Cabinet (composed of the co-chief executives, fund managers and the COO), working closely with senior investment executives, leading new product development, supporting the work of the investor relations team, assisting with human capital management, representing Riverside at select events and providing investment expertise on select transactions.

YFM appoints non-exec chairman

ANDREW MARCHANT has been appointed non-executive chairman of YFM Equity Partners.

Marchant began his career at Prudential before founding Schroder Ventures, now known as Permira. He then moved to Cinven as a director and co-owner. Ten years ago, Marchant was appointed chairman of Unigestion's private equity division, a role he held until 2008. He remains chairman of Unigestion UK.

He is also a partner at business consultancy Animos and wealth management firm Saltus.



Andrew Marchant,
non-executive chairman
YFM Equity Partners

Marchant has experience of investing in the transport, IT, leisure and healthcare sectors. He has also been involved in raising several funds with targets ranging from £300-900m from European institutional investors.

Commenting on Marchant's new role, YFM managing director David Hall said: "He brings a deep industry knowledge and network that will be invaluable to our business as we continue to expand our

funds under management, particularly with institutional investors throughout the UK and Europe."

David Rolfe joins NVM Private Equity as partner

DAVID ROLFE has been appointed as investment partner for the south of England at NVM Private Equity. He will be responsible for generating investment opportunities and managing the firm's portfolio across the region.

He joins NVM from his role as corporate finance director at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He worked at the firm for 12 years and was responsible for leading deal activity in the south-east.

In a statement, Rolfe said: "NVM has a strong investment team that is well-respected in the market and I am really looking forward to working alongside them."



David Rolfe,
investment partner, NVM
Private Equity

Gresham takes on investment manager

MID-MARKET GP Gresham Private Equity has appointed Adam Rudd as investment manager in its Manchester office.

Rudd joins Gresham Manchester from his position at accountancy firm KPMG, where he was corporate finance manager with a specific focus on the e-commerce sector. In addition, he advised on a number of private equity and public-to-private transactions.

Rudd has previously worked as strategy manager at online retailer DRL Limited, and in the corporate finance division of Brewin Dolphin Investment Banking.

Joining the deal team at Gresham, Rudd will work on sourcing new opportunities and assisting portfolio companies with acquisition strategies.

Dow Schofield Watts hires four



James Marshall, Victoria Gribben,
Dow Schofield Watts

CORPORATE FINANCE firm Dow Schofield Watts has appointed two new hires to the Yorkshire and north-east office and added another duo to the Daresbury team.

Victoria Gribben joins the Yorkshire office with six years' experience of corporate finance in the region. Gribben has an MSc in finance from Leicester University and is a chartered accountant.

She joins the team alongside fellow new hire James Marshall, who leaves his role in the transaction advisory service team at Ernst & Young in Leeds. In his previous role, Marshall worked on projects including refinancings and strategic reviews of listed and private equity-backed companies. He is a chartered accountant and a mathematics graduate from Newcastle University.

Keith Benson and Gavin Jones have been appointed to the Daresbury team. Benson spent the last four years at KPMG in the north-west business unit of the corporate audit and assurance practice. He is an LSE graduate and chartered accountant. Prior to joining KPMG he worked as a technology development manager and analyst programmer, predominantly for RBS.

Gavin Jones leaves the audit department of Ernst & Young to join the Daresbury team. He is a chartered accountant and a graduate of Warwick University.

Simon Borrows new 3i CEO

3I GROUP has appointed Simon Borrows as chief executive, taking over from Michael Queen.

Borrows, previously chief investment officer, has been a member of the firm's board since joining in October 2011.

Prior to joining 3i, he was chairman of Greenhill & Co International, having previously been co-chief executive.

Before founding the European operations of Greenhill & Co in 1998, Borrows was the managing director of Baring Brothers International Limited.

Queen announced his decision to step down at the end of March. He joined 3i in 1987, became executive director in 1997 and chief executive in 2009. Commenting

on his decision, he said in a statement: "It has been a privilege to lead such an outstanding organisation as 3i. I am pleased that after a

difficult period, 3i is now well placed to achieve its full potential. Having restored 3i's financial strength, the time is right for me to seek a new challenge and for 3i to appoint a new leader to build on this position."

Separately, David Fewtrell has joined 3i Debt Management as a portfolio manager.

Fewtrell was most recently managing director and head of EMEA loan sales, global markets at HSBC. There he

was responsible for managing the bank's institutional loan sales business, covering both primary and secondary markets.



Simon Borrows,
chief executive, 3i

LinkedIn co-founder joins German tech VC Earlybird

LINKEDIN CO-FOUNDER Konstantin Guericke has joined German technology venture capital firm Earlybird as a partner.

The entrepreneur joins the firm as it plans its expansion into the US market.

Guericke said, "I have been interested for some time in supporting German entrepreneurial ventures that are not copycats, but have the potential to be a success on a worldwide scale."

Guericke is said to be well networked in the US and Europe and played a part in the growth of professional network LinkedIn. He also served as chief executive of social

communications start-up jaxtr and sits on the board of several other start-ups.

Christian Nagel, partner at Earlybird, said, "Guericke has a mix of German-US entrepreneurial DNA that our platform will benefit from."

Guericke holds a BSc and MSc from Stanford University where he mentors student entrepreneurs.

Earlybird was established in 1997 and currently manages \$700m in assets. Its portfolio contains companies in the consumer internet and enterprise services space, including B2X Care Solutions and Carpooling.com.



Konstantin Guericke,
partner, Earlybird

COO of AXA PE leaves for ADIA

AXA PRIVATE Equity chief operating officer Christophe Florin has left the firm for sovereign wealth fund Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).

Florin joined AXA Private Equity in 1998. He was an executive member of the board prior to leaving and also served as managing director for Asia during his time at the firm.

Florin began his career at Crédit National. He then moved to Gan, specialising in private equity investments.

SEP adds ex-MSP to advisory board

FORMER SCOTTISH Labour Party leader Wendy Alexander has joined the advisory board of Scottish Equity Partners (SEP).

Alexander quit the Scottish parliament in May last year. She then worked for SEP on a consultancy basis, with a specific focus on the energy sector. She worked at strategy consultancy Booz & Co before starting her career in politics.

Prior to this latest appointment, Alexander also took up a senior role at London Business School; she will be responsible for MBA and degree programmes as well as the school's career services.

DC hires new director

TERRY HUFFINE has joined DC Advisory Partners as an executive director in the firm's European consumer, leisure and retail team.

Huffine will focus specifically on the food and beverage subsector, an area in which he has specialised for the last seven years.

Huffine joins DC Advisory Partners after eight years with ABN AMRO, where he was a director in the consumer team.

Vista Equity Partners closes fourth fund over target on \$3.5bn

AMERICAN GP Vista Equity Partners has held a \$3.5bn final close for VEP Fund IV.

The fund was oversubscribed, with the initial target being \$2.5bn.

Vista has already made four investments from VEP Fund IV, including the £1.27bn take-private of British treasury capital markets and banking solutions business Misys.

VEP Fund IV

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Target | \$2.5bn |
| Closed on | \$3.5bn, May 2012 |
| Fund manager | Vista Equity Partners |

The fund will invest in large-cap buyouts in Europe and the US.

ISIS closes fifth fund on £360m

ISIS Equity Partners has closed its fifth vehicle ISIS V on £360m.

ISIS closed its previous fund – its first as an independent firm – on £238.5m in 2007.

The GP invested £3.7m in day nursery operator Happy Days in April. ISIS also reaped a 15x money multiple and 69%

IRR when it sold UK-based online retailer Wiggle to Bridgepoint for £180m in December last year.

ISIS V will follow its predecessor's investment strategy, targeting growth equity and buyout transactions of UK businesses valued in the £20-75m range. ISIS usually

ISIS V

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Closed on | £360m, April 2012 |
| Focus | UK growth capital and buyouts |
| Fund manager | ISIS Equity Partners |

invests £2-30m of equity per transaction.

ISIS's 32-strong team is headed by managing partner Wol Kolade.

Headway launches new \$373m fund

Headway Capital Partners has filed SEC documents for a new secondaries fund with a \$373m hard cap.

Headway Investment Partners III follows three previous funds, one of which was a special purpose vehicle.

The Collier Capital spinout is still investing from Headway Investment Partners II, which

held a final close on €150m in 2008.

The minimum investment from outside investors is set at around \$6.7m.

Headway Investment Partners III will focus on direct secondaries, following a strategy similar to its predecessors.

Kevin Brennan, director at Headway, will manage the fund.

Headway Investment Partners III

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Target | \$373m |
| Announced | April 2012 |
| Focus | Direct secondaries |
| Fund manager | Headway Capital Partners |

Montefiore Investment targets €180m for third fund

FRENCH MID-CAP player Montefiore Investment has launched its third fund, Montefiore Investment III, and is looking to raise €180m. Montefiore is currently aiming to reach a first close before the summer.

The firm closed its previous vehicle, Montefiore Investment II, on

€120m in early 2009. It is now 70% invested. Montefiore will start investing from the new fund when the second vehicle is fully invested.

Existing Montefiore LPs have already confirmed interest for 50% of the new vehicle. In addition, Montefiore has added

Montefiore Investment III

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Target | €180m |
| Announced | May 2012 |
| Focus | France, lower mid-cap |
| Fund manager | Montefiore Investment |

to its LP base a European bank and a US-based fund-of-funds.

Montefiore will keep to its buy-and-build strategy of French lower mid-cap businesses.

Idinvest launches mezzanine fund

MID-MARKET EUROPEAN private equity firm Idinvest Partners has launched the Idinvest Private Value Europe fund.

The vehicle will focus on mezzanine investments in mid-market European companies, but will also target the secondaries market.

The fund will primarily target institutional and private investors, but retail

investors are also able to invest in the vehicle as a result of an agreement granted by the French securities regulator.

Non-sophisticated investors will be sourced from the network at Oddo & Cie investment bank.

The fund has a target of €150m and will focus on mezzanine investments in mid-market companies, aiming to see returns

Idinvest Private Value Europe

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Target | €150m |
| Announced | April 2012 |
| Focus | Mezzanine |
| Fund manager | Idinvest Partners |

of 10%. The fund will also invest in the secondaries market.

EDF sponsors new cleantech VC fund

FRENCH ENERGY company EDF has partnered with private equity house Idinvest Partners to launch cleantech venture capital fund Electranova Capital.

The fund has already raised €40m and will be managed independently by Idinvest Partners.

EDF committed €30m to the project

while Allianz, the first institutional LP to invest in the vehicle, contributed €10m.

The search for investors will continue throughout 2012 and discussions with several potential LPs are already underway.

Electranova will finance start-ups active in the energy sector, both in France and Europe, via minority shareholdings.

Electranova Capital

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Target | €100m |
| Announced | May 2012 |
| Closed on | €40m first close, May 2012 |
| Focus | Cleantech venture |
| Fund manager | Idinvest Partners |

123Venture launches €100m French mezzanine fund

123VENTURE HAS launched a new mezzanine fund, Trocadero Capital & Transmission II, with a €100m target.

The FCPR will be operated by 123Venture's new arm Trocadero Capital, which was launched to focus on institutional

investors while 123Venture mainly manages retail vehicles.

123Venture will commit €7m to the fund, while the remainder will be provided by institutional clients.

Trocadero Capital & Transmission II will

Trocadero Capital & Transmission II

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Target | €100m |
| Announced | May 2012 |
| Focus | Mezzanine, France |
| Fund manager | Trocadero Capital |

provide mezzanine funding to French SMEs.

Philippe Bruneau will manage the fund for 123Venture.

Cross Road holds first close on €30m

CROSS ROAD Biotech has announced the first closing of its second fund, CRB Bio II, on €30m.

The fund has a target of €60m, which it aims to reach in the coming months. The vehicle was launched in October 2010.

Capital commitments originate from private and public investors.

The fund will invest in 10-12 SMEs in the biomedical sector, targeting the therapy, medical and alimentary products industries over a period of eight years.

CRB Bio II

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Target | €60m |
| Announced | October 2010 |
| Closed on | €30m, April 2012 (first close) |
| Focus | Biomedicine |
| Fund manager | Cross Road Biotech |

Caixa Capital Risc launches third fund with €23m target

CAIXA CAPITAL Risc has raised its third fund, according to reports in Spain's press.

The fund will invest in startups involved in environmental sustainability and cleantech, and has a target of €23m.

The new vehicle follows on from previous funds focused on biotech and internet startups.

Public investors CDTI, Spain's Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology and state-owned finance institution Institut Catala de Finances (ICF) will co-invest in the fund and hold a 49% stake.

Carlos Trenchs is director of Caixa Capital Risc.

Cleantech

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Fund | €23m |
| Announced | April 2012 |
| Focus | Environmental sustainability, cleantech |
| Fund manager | Caixa Capital Risc |

SICI reaches half €50m target at first closing of regional fund

ITALIAN PRIVATE equity house SICI has held a first closing of the Rilancio e Sviluppo fund on €26m.

The fund focuses on Tuscan SMEs and has a €50m target. The vehicle has a lifespan of 10-12 years.

Current investors in the fund include MPS, Tuscan financial institution Fidi Toscana, and Gruppo Intesa – all three investors committed

€5m each. Local banks and financial institutions have also contributed to the fund.

The fund will target Tuscan SMEs. The investment strategy will focus on consolidation of local companies to create larger firms able to compete on an international scale. Companies involved in fashion, leather goods, food processing and advanced mechanics will be of particular interest.

Rilancio e Sviluppo

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fund | €50m |
| Announced | February 2012 |
| Closed on | €26m (first close) |
| Focus | Tuscan SMEs |
| Fund manager | SICI |

Connect Ventures holds €16m first close on maiden vehicle

NEWCOMER CONNECT Ventures has held a €16m (£13m) first close for its maiden early-stage fund. Connect started marketing its eponymous fund at the beginning of 2011 and is aiming to reach a final close on £35m by the end of Q2 2013.

The vehicle will have a seven-year lifetime (including a four-year investment period), with two potential one-year

extensions. Terms and conditions were described as "standard".

Connect Ventures will provide seed and series-A financing in the €250,000-1.25m range to Western European start-ups. It specialises in web and mobile sector investments, focusing on the consumer web, digital media, e-commerce, entertainment and gaming sectors.

Connect Ventures

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Fund | £35m |
| Announced | Early 2011 |
| Closed on | €16m first close, May 2012 |
| Focus | European tech, early-stage |
| Fund manager | Connect Ventures |

pan-European deals index

| SECTOR | COMPANY | TYPE | EQUITY LEAD | COUNTRY | VALUE | PAGE |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------|
| CONSUMER | Weetabix | Trade sale | Lion Capital | UK | £1.2bn | 30 |
| | Alain Afflelou | SBO | Lion Capital | France | €800m est | 54 |
| | United Coffee | Trade sale | CapVest | Switzerland | €470m est | 46 |
| | Europcar | Refinancing | Eurazeo | France | €324m | 54 |
| | Alpitour | Buyout | Wise SGR, J Hirsch & Co | Italy | €225m | 68 |
| | Gala Casinos | Partial exit | Apollo <i>et al.</i> | UK | £205m | 30 |
| | Stokomani | SBO | Sagard Private Equity | France | €200-210m | 54 |
| | Sport-Master | Buyout | Nordic Capital | Denmark | €150-200m | 63 |
| | Raleigh Cycle | Trade sale | Perseus Capital | UK | \$100m | 31 |
| | Leisure Pass Group | MBO | Primary Capital | UK | £35m | 32 |
| | Homair Vacances | Replacement capital | Naxicap | France | €30m est | 57 |
| | Rex Restaurants | Expansion | Graphite Capital | UK | £21m | 36 |
| | Austria Pet Food | MBO | Pangea Investors | UK | €25m | 47 |
| | Purity Soft Drinks | MBI | Langholm Capital | UK | £10-20m | 33 |
| | Bathstore | Buyout | Endless | UK | £15m est | 34 |
| | Inoveight Holdings | Expansion | ISIS Equity Partners | UK | c£12m est | 36 |
| | Tucano Urbano | Buyout | Consilium SGR | Italy | €12m est | 68 |
| | notonthehighstreet.com | Expansion | FGPE <i>et al.</i> | UK | £10m | 36 |
| | MedicAnimal.com | Expansion | Balderton Capital | UK | £10m | 37 |
| | Wear Inns | Expansion | BGF, NVM Private Equity | UK | £10m | 37 |
| | Bathrooms.com | Expansion | Augmentum Capital | UK | £7.5m | 37 |
| | Arcancil Paris | MBO | FSI Régions | France | <€5m | 55 |
| | Campadre Scandinavia | Expansion | Incitia Ventures | Sweden | SEK 20m | 65 |
| | Fabulous Garden | Expansion | FSI Régions, Alliance Entreprendre | France | €1m | 58 |
| | Hazinem.com | Expansion | 212 Ltd | Turkey | \$750,000-1m | 43 |
| | futalis | Early-stage | HTGF | Germany | €500,000 | 49 |
| | Cadum International | Trade sale | Milestone Capital | France | c6x | 54 |
| | Zadig & Voltaire | Expansion | TA Associates | France | n/d | 57 |
| | Cambrian Pet Foods | Expansion | Swander Pace Capital | UK | n/d | 38 |
| | Yarra Organic Petfood | Expansion | Vendis Capital | Netherlands | n/d | 42 |
| | Norafin Industries | MBO | Pinova Capital | Germany | n/d | 47 |
| | ASC International House | MBO | Argos Sodic | Switzerland | n/d | 47 |
| | Kiwoko | SBO | Corpfin Capital | Spain | n/d | 68 |
| FINANCIALS | Carnegie / Max Matthiessen | Replacement capital | Altor | Sweden | SEK 629m | 64 |
| HEALTHCARE | Rottapharm | Buyout | Clessidra, Avista | Italy | €1.7bn est | 68 |
| | Dako | Trade sale | EQT | Denmark | DKK 12.8bn | 63 |
| | Fougera Pharmaceuticals | Trade sale | Nordic Capital <i>et al.</i> | US | \$1.525bn | 63 |
| | Four Seasons | Buyout | Terra Firma | UK | £825m | 30 |
| | Prosonix | Early-stage | Gimv | UK | £5.7m | 37 |
| | Svas Biosana | Expansion | IMI Fondi Chiusi | Italy | €6m | 69 |
| | Algiac Pharmaceuticals | Early-stage | HTGF <i>et al.</i> | Germany | €4.3m | 48 |
| | Creo Medical | Early-stage | Finance Wales | UK | £3m | 38 |
| | Trinean | Expansion | Vesalius Biocapital <i>et al.</i> | Belgium | €2.7m | 42 |
| | NOVACYT | Expansion | Arkeon Gestion | France | €1.5m | 58 |
| | t-cell Europe | Early-stage | HTGF <i>et al.</i> | Germany | €1.45m | 49 |
| | Grupo Hospitalario Quirón | Buyout | Doughty Hanson | Spain | n/d | 68 |
| | Solor Care | Acquisition finance | HgCapital, SL Capital Partners | UK | n/d | 35 |
| | Ellipse Klinikken | Trade sale | Reiten & Co | Norway | n/d | 64 |
| INDUSTRIALS | Enovos | Expansion | AXA Private Equity | Luxembourg | €330m | 42 |
| | Dunkermotoren | Trade sale | Triton Partners | Germany | <€200m | 46 |
| | Qundis Group | Buyout | HgCapital | Germany | €160m | 46 |
| | Hilite International | Partial exit | 3i | Germany | €100-200m | 46 |
| | Bifold | SBO | LDC | UK | £85m | 31 |
| | Delta Recyclage | Buyout | Demeter Partners <i>et al.</i> | France | <€50m | 55 |
| | Vectis | MBI | Argos Expansion | France | <€50m | 55 |
| | SGX Sensortech Limited | Buyout | Baird Capital Partners Europe | UK | £15m | 33 |
| | P2i | Expansion | Naxo Capital <i>et al.</i> | UK | £12m | 36 |

pan-European deals index

| SECTOR | COMPANY | TYPE | EQUITY LEAD | COUNTRY | VALUE | PAGE |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|-------------|-------------|------|
| | EXOSUN | Expansion | Omnes Capital | France | €12m | 57 |
| | Tamar Energy | Expansion | Ludgate Investments | UK | £7m | 37 |
| | Angelantoni Test Technologies | Expansion | Fondo Italiano | Italy | €8m | 69 |
| | Micropelt | Expansion | Ludgate et al. | Germany | £5.3m | 48 |
| | M Squared Lasers | Expansion | BGF | UK | £3.85m | 38 |
| | Isotip-Joncoux | Acquisition finance | CM-CIC Capital Finance | France | €4m | 56 |
| | Ignis Biomass | Expansion | Ludgate Investments | UK | £3.1m | 38 |
| | Smart Hydro Power | Expansion | eCapital | Germany | €2.7m | 48 |
| | Bagnères Industries | Acquisition finance | Idinvest Partners | France | €1m | 56 |
| | Bourdoncle | Expansion | FSI Régions | France | €700,000 | 58 |
| | MK Chimney Systems | Trade sale | Riverside | Poland | 2.9x | 43 |
| | WFEL | Trade sale | Dunedin Capital Partners | UK | 2.4x | 34 |
| | Meyn | Trade sale | Altor Equity Partners | Netherlands | n/d | 41 |
| | Phoenix Supply | Partial exit | Terra Firma | UK | n/d | 32 |
| | Tolerans | Exit | Litorina | Sweden | n/d | 64 |
| | Methaneo | Trade sale | Omnes Capital, Demeter Partners | France | n/d | 56 |
| | Olaer | Trade sale | Gresham Private Equity | UK | n/d | 32 |
| | fos4X | Early-stage | HTGF et al. | Germany | n/d | 49 |
| MEDIA | Ocean Outdoor | SBO | LDC | UK | £35m | 33 |
| | MGI Digital Graphic | Exit | Omnes Capital | France | n/d | 56 |
| | Cinesite | Buyout | Endless | UK | n/d | 35 |
| | eCircle | Trade sale | TA Associates | Germany | n/d | 47 |
| | VNU Media | Partial exit | 3i, HIG Capital | Netherlands | n/d | 41 |
| SERVICES | M&C Energy Group | Trade sale | Lyceum Capital | UK | £90m est | 31 |
| | Cambridge Education Group | Refinancing | Palamon Capital Partners | UK | £23m | 33 |
| | Sortera Skandinavien | MBO | Norvestor Equity | Sweden | <€25m | 64 |
| | HSEC | MBO | EV | UK | £2.7m | 34 |
| | Inläsningstjänst | MBO | PEQ | Sweden | <€5m | 64 |
| | IESA | MBO | Gresham Private Equity | UK | n/d | 34 |
| | Accent Jobs | Replacement capital | Naxicap | Belgium | n/d | 42 |
| | Bravida | SBO | Bain Capital | Sweden | n/d | 63 |
| TECHNOLOGY | Speech Processing Solutions | Buyout | Invest AG | Austria | <€500m | 46 |
| | CAP | Buyout | Montagu | UK | £175m est | 31 |
| | BigHand | SBO | Bridgepoint | UK | £49m | 32 |
| | AVITO.ru | Expansion | Accel Partners et al. | Russia | \$75m | 43 |
| | Just-Eat | Expansion | Vitruvian Partners et al. | UK | \$64m | 35 |
| | Coresonic | Trade sale | Industrifonden, SEBVC | Sweden | \$35m | 64 |
| | Nerim | MBO | CM-CIC LBO Partners | France | €25-50m | 55 |
| | Lafourchette | Expansion | Serena Capital, Partech | France | €8m | 57 |
| | Moviepilot | Expansion | DFJ Esprit et al. | Germany | \$7m | 48 |
| | BLStream | Expansion | Enterprise Investors | Finland | €5.5m | 65 |
| | Yuilop | Expansion | Nauta Capital | Spain | €4.5m | 69 |
| | Zetes | Exit | KBC Private Equity | Belgium | €4m | 41 |
| | TAPTAP Networks | Expansion | Nauta Capital | Spain | \$4.5m | 69 |
| | HPC-SA | Expansion | Emertec, CDC Climat | France | €3m | 57 |
| | BagThat Trading | Early-stage | Oxford Capital | UK | £2m | 38 |
| | enercast | Expansion | HTGF et al. | Germany | <€2.25m | 48 |
| | EyeTrackShop | Expansion | Northzone | Sweden | \$3m | 65 |
| | Camwood | Management buy-back | Matrix Private Equity Partners, Foresight Group | UK | £1.9m | 34 |
| | Arkub | Expansion | Almi Invest et al. | Sweden | SEK 12m | 65 |
| | ArcCore | Expansion | Fouriertransform | Sweden | SEK 10m | 65 |
| | SoCloz | Expansion | Alven Capital | France | €1m est | 58 |
| | CloudArena | Expansion | 212 Ltd | Turkey | €500,000-1m | 43 |
| | Catchoom | Expansion | Inveready | Spain | €600,000 | 69 |
| | Forsitec | Expansion | FSI Régions | France | €300,000 | 58 |
| | Archify | Early-stage | Balderton Capital | Austria | n/d | 49 |

| A | Austria | D | Germany | ES | Spain | I | Italy | NOR | Norway | RO | Romania | UK | United Kingdom | FC | Final close |
|--|---|------|------------|-------|---------------|--------|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------|---------|----|----------------|-----|--------------|
| BE | Belgium | DEN | Denmark | F | France | LX | Luxembourg | P | Portugal | SWE | Sweden | US | United States | 1st | First close |
| CH | Switzerland | FI | Ireland | FIN | Finland | NL | Netherlands | PL | Poland | TR | Turkey | FA | Fund announced | 2nd | Second close |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Group | Fund name | Base | Target (m) | Close | Amount (m) | Date | Stage | Region | Contact | Tel No | | | | | |
| I23Venture | Trocadero Capital & Transmission II | F | €100 | FA | n/d | May-12 | Mezzanine | F | Philippe Bruneau | +33 1 49 26 98 00 | | | | | |
| Active Venture Partners | Active Venture II | ES | n/d | 1st | €25 | Jan-11 | Early-stage, expansion – technology | ES, D, Scandinavia | Christopher Pommerening | +34 93 487 6666 | | | | | |
| Alpha | Alpha Private Equity Fund 6 (APEF 6) | F | €750 | 1st | €500 | Jul-11 | Buyout, mid-market | F, I, BE, NL, CH, D, A | Patricia Desquesnes | +33 1 56 60 20 20 | | | | | |
| Altamar Private Equity | AltamarV Private Equity Program | ES | €250-300 | 1st | €120 | Sep-11 | Fund-of-funds | Europe, US, Asia | Claudio Aguirre | +34 91 310 72 30 | | | | | |
| Altitude Partners | Altitude Partners | UK | £15 | 1st | £7 | Apr-11 | Buyout | UK | Simon White, Jonathan Simm | +44 23 8030 2006 | | | | | |
| Alto Partners | Alto Capital III | I | €120-130 | 1st | €80 | Oct-11 | Buyout, expansion, Italian SMEs | I | Raffaele De Courten | +39 02 7209504 | | | | | |
| Aster Capital | Aster II | F | €120-150 | FA | n/d | Feb-11 | Early-stage – technology | Europe, US, Asia | Jean-Marc Bally | +33 1 45 61 34 58 | | | | | |
| Atlantic Bridge | Atlantic Bridge | UK | €130 | 1st | €85 | Nov-10 | Buyout, expansion – technology | Europe | n/d | +353 1 603 4450 | | | | | |
| Augmentum Capital | Augmentum I | UK | €50 | FA | n/d | Aug-10 | Expansion, small- and mid-cap – technology | UK, HK | Richard Matthews | +44 20 7514 1983 | | | | | |
| Avindia Capital | Avindia Energy I | ES | €4 | FA | n/d | Mar-12 | Early-stage | ES | Emilio Giner | +34 902 060 004 | | | | | |
| Banexi Ventures Partners | BV5 | F | €50-80 | 1st | €50 | Oct-11 | Early-stage, expansion – technology | F, CH | Jacqueline Renard | +33 1 73 02 89 66 | | | | | |
| Bridges Ventures | Bridges Ventures Fund III | UK | n/d | 1st | n/d | Dec-11 | Early-stage, expansion | UK | Philip Newborough | +44 20 7262 5566 | | | | | |
| Cabiedes & Partners | Cabiedes & Partners Fund | ES | n/d | 1st | €25 | Mar-11 | Early-stage – technology | ES | José Cabiedes | +34 670 278 750 | | | | | |
| Capman | CapMan Mezzanine V | SWE | €150 | 1st | €60 | Sep-10 | Mezzanine, mid-market | Nordic | Niklas Östborn | +46 8 545 854 70 | | | | | |
| Capricorn Venture Partners | Capricorn Health-tech Fund | BE | n/d | 1st | €42 | Dec-10 | Early-stage, expansion – healthcare | Europe | n/d | +32 16 28 41 00 | | | | | |
| CDC Entreprises | FCPR FSN PME | F | €400 | FA | n/d | Jun-11 | Expansion | F | Daniel Balmes | +33 1 58 50 73 07 | | | | | |
| Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) | Innvierte | ES | €500 | FA | €250 | Oct-10 | Early-stage – technology | ES | n/d | +34 91 581 55 00 | | | | | |
| CGS Management | CGS III | CH | CHF 180 | 1st | CHF 55 | Feb-12 | Buyout, small- and mid-size – industrial | DACH | Ashley Le Feuvre | +44 1534 500400 | | | | | |
| CIC Mezzanine Gestion | CIC Mezzanine 3 | F | €120 | 1st | €63 | Apr-12 | Mezzanine | F | François Petit | +33 1 42 66 74 33 | | | | | |
| Connect Ventures | Connect Ventures | UK | £35 | 1st | €16 | Apr-12 | Early-stage – technology | Europe | Pietro Bezza and Bill Earner | n/d | | | | | |
| Creandum | Creandum III | SWE | €150 | 1st | €93 | May-12 | Early- and later-stage – technology | Nordic | n/d | +46 8-524 63 630 | | | | | |
| Creathor Venture | Creathor Venture Fund III | D | €80 | 1st | €51 | Sep-11 | Early-stage | D, F, A, CH | Gert Köhler | +49 6172 13 97 20 | | | | | |
| Credit Agricole Private Equity | Capenergie II Renewable Energy Fund | F | €200 | n/d | €120 | Dec-11 | Expansion – renewable energy, infrastructure | Europe | n/d | +33 1 43 23 21 21 | | | | | |
| Credo Ventures | Credo Stage I | CZ | €20 | 1st | €11 | Nov-10 | Early-stage | Europe | n/d | +420 222 317 377 | | | | | |
| Cross Road Biotech | CRB Bio II | ES | €60 | 1st | €30 | Apr-12 | Early-stage – biotech | ES | n/d | +34 91 446 78 97 | | | | | |
| Danske Private Equity Partners | Danske PEPV | D | €600 | 1st | €534 | Feb-12 | Fund-of-funds | Western Europe, North America | John Danielsen | +45 3344 6329 | | | | | |
| Diana Capital | Diana Capital II | ES | €175 | FA | €100 | Jan-11 | Buyout, expansion | ES | Javier Fernández Las Heras | +34 914 262 329 | | | | | |
| Earlybird Venture Capital | Earlybird 2012 Fund | D | \$200 | 1st | \$100 | Apr-12 | Early-stage – internet, technology | DACH | Hendrik Brandis | +49 40 432941 0 | | | | | |
| Earth Capital | ECP Renewable Energy Fund One | UK | €750 | 1st | n/d | Jan-10 | Expansion – renewable energy, infrastructure | EMEA | Ben Cotton | +44 20 7811 4500 | | | | | |
| E-Capital | E-Capital III | BE | €80 | 2nd | €95 | Feb-12 | Buyout | Benelux | Jérôme Lamfalussy | +32 2 642 20 00 | | | | | |
| EDF and Idinvest Partners | Electranova Capital | F | €100 | 1st | €40 | May-12 | Early-stage – cleantech | Europe | n/d | +33 1 58 18 56 56 | | | | | |
| EMBL Ventures | EMBL Technology Fund II (ETF II) | D | >€50m | 1st | €40 | Dec-11 | Early-stage | DACH | Stefan Herr | +49 6221 389 330 | | | | | |
| Equistone Partners Europe | Equistone Partners Europe Fund IV | UK | €1,500 | 4th | €1,000 (est.) | Apr-12 | Buyout | Europe | Rob Myers | +44 207 512 9900 | | | | | |
| Eurolight Ventures | Eurolight Ventures Fund | ES | €80-90 | FA | n/d | Feb-11 | Early-stage – photonic SMEs | Europe | Victor Sunyer | n/d | | | | | |
| European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Programme | UK | €100 | 1st | n/d | Dec-11 | Early-stage, expansion – technology | Europe, mainly east and south Mediterranean | n/d | +44 20 7338 6000 | | | | | |
| F&C | F&C Climate Opportunity Partners | UK | n/d | 1st | €30 | Oct-11 | Fund-of-funds – climate change | Europe | Hamish Mair | +44 20 7628 8000 | | | | | |
| FF&P Private Equity | FF&P Investor 3 LP | UK | n/d | 1st | £47 | Jun-11 | Buyout, expansion | UK | Henry Sallitt, David Barbour | +44 20 7036 5722 | | | | | |
| Foresight Group | Foresight Environmental Fund | UK | £200 | FA | £70 | Mar-11 | Early-stage – recycling and renewable energy | London | Matt Taylor | +44 1732 471 804 | | | | | |

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|--|--|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|--|------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|------------------|--|
| Group | Fund name | Base | Target (m) | Close | Amount (m) | Date | Stage | Region | Contact | Tel No | | | | | |
| Gamesa | Gamesa Fund | ES | €50 | FA | n/d | May-11 | Early-stage, expansion – renewable tech | Global | David Mesonero | +34 944 03 73 52 | | | | | |
| Grupo Inveready | Inveready First Capital I | ES | €5 | FA | €3 | Oct-10 | Early-stage – technology | ES | Ignacio Fonts | +34 93 447 30 63 | | | | | |
| Headway Capital Partners | Headway Investment Partners III | UK | \$373 | FA | n/d | May-12 | Secondaries | Europe, US | Kevin Brennan | +44 20 7518 8888 | | | | | |
| I2BF and VTB | Nanotech fund | UK/ RU | \$100 | FA | \$50 | Oct-10 | Early-stage – technology | Russian, Kazakhstan | Ilya Golubovich | +44 20 3405 1974 | | | | | |
| IDeA Capital Funds | IDeA Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development | I | €100 | FA | n/d | Nov-10 | Buyout, expansion – cleantech sector | I, DACH, Israel | n/d | +39 02 2906 631 | | | | | |
| Idinvest Partners | Idinvest Private Value Europe | F | €150 | FA | n/d | Apr-12 | Mezzanine | Europe | François Lacoste | +33 1 58 18 56 56 | | | | | |
| Inter-Risco | Fundo Inter-Risco II | P | €150 | 1st | €75 | Nov-10 | Buyout, expansion | P | Miguel de Oliveira Tavares | +351 220 126 700 | | | | | |
| Intesa Sanpaolo | Atlante Private Equity | I | €250 | 1st | €150 | Jan-11 | Buyout – Italian SMEs | I | Walter Comelli | +39 0516566023 | | | | | |
| Investindustrial | Investindustrial Fund V | I | €1,250 | n/d | <€1,000 | Apr-12 | Buyout | Europe | n/d | +44 20 7631 2777 | | | | | |
| Kernel Capital | Bank of Ireland MedTech Accelerator Fund | UK | €10 | FA | n/d | Feb-11 | Early-stage – medical technology | EI | Orla Rimmington | +353 21 4928974 | | | | | |
| Legal & General Ventures | LGV 7 | UK | n/d | 1st | £170 | Dec-10 | Buyout | UK | Nick Marsh | +44 20 3124 2911 | | | | | |
| Life Sciences Partners | LSP Life Sciences Fund N.V. | NL | €250 | FA | n/d | Apr-11 | Expansion, small and mid cap – biotech | Europe, US | Mark Wegter, Joep Muijrs, Geraldine O'Keeffe | +31 20 664 55 00 | | | | | |
| Maven Capital Partners | Scottish Loan Fund | UK | £150 | 1st | £94 | Mar-11 | Mezzanine | Scotland | Andrew Craig | +44 141 206 0104 | | | | | |
| Mediterra Capital Management | Mediterra Capital Management Fund | TR | \$360 | 1st | \$144 | May-11 | Buyout – mid-market | Turkey | Ahmet Faralyali | +90 212 340 76 34 | | | | | |
| MMC Ventures | The MMC Growth Generation Fund | UK | n/d | FA | n/d | Mar-12 | Early-stage, expansion – tech, healthcare, media, growth capital | UK | Rory Stirling | +44 2073610213 | | | | | |
| Montefiore Investment | Montefiore Investment III | F | €180 | FA | n/d | May-12 | Early-stage, expansion, lower mid-cap | F | Eric Bismuth | +33 1 5818 6870 | | | | | |
| Mountain Cleantech | Mountain Cleantech Fund II | CH | €100 | 1st | €23 | Oct-11 | Early-stage, expansion – cleantech | DACH, Nordics | Jürgen Habichler | +41 44 783 80 41 | | | | | |
| MTI | Orion Fund | UK | £150 | FA | n/d | Feb-12 | Early-stage | UK | Richard Henderson | +44 1727 8849398 | | | | | |
| Nazca Private Equity | Fondo Nazca III | ES | €150 | 1st | €190 | Sep-10 | Buyout, expansion | ES | n/d | +34 91 7000 501 | | | | | |
| Nextstage | FCPI Nextstage Cap 2016 | F | €25 | FA | n/d | Oct-10 | Early-stage | F | Marie-Agnès Gastineau | +33 1 53 93 49 40 | | | | | |
| NIBC | NIBC Growth Capital Fund II | NL | €200 | 1st | €100 | Sep-11 | Buyout – mid-market | D, Benelux | n/d | +31 70 342 5425 | | | | | |
| Notion Capital | Notion Capital Fund 2 | UK | \$150 | 1st | \$100 | Apr-12 | Early-stage – technology | Europe | Stephen Chandler | +44 845 498 9393 | | | | | |
| Partech Ventures | Partech International VI | F | €120-140 | 1st | €100 | Dec-11 | Early-stage, expansion – technology | Europe, Silicon Valley | Jean-Marc Patouillaud | +33 1 53 65 65 53 | | | | | |
| Perceva Capital | Perceva Capital | F | n/d | n/d | €150 | Jan-11 | Buyout, special situations | F | n/d | +33 1 4297 1990 | | | | | |
| Pontis Capital | PGC II | A | €60 | 1st | €30 | Jul-11 | Expansion, small and mid-cap – technology | DACH | Gerhard Fiala | +43 1 533 32 33 10 | | | | | |
| Riva y Garcia and Official Medical College of Barcelona (COMB) | Healthequity | ES | €15-20 | FA | €4 | Mar-11 | Early-stage – medical services, biotech | ES | Borja García Nieto | +34 93 2701212 | | | | | |
| Sepides | Enisa Fespyme Sepides | ES | €15 | FA | €15 | Oct-10 | Early-stage | ES | n/d | +34 91 396 14 94 | | | | | |
| Sherpa Capital | Sherpa Capital | ES | €30 | FA | n/d | Oct-10 | Buyout, distressed situations | Europe, Latin America | Eduardo Navarro | +34 902 702526 | | | | | |
| SICI | Rilancio e Sviluppo | I | €50 | 1st | €26 | May-12 | Expansion – Tuscan SMEs | I | Fabrizio Buzzatti | n/d | | | | | |
| SODENA | Nabio | ES | €600 | FA | €350 | Nov-10 | Early-stage – healthcare | ES | n/d | +34 848 421942 | | | | | |
| Steadfast Capital | Steadfast Capital Fund III | D | €250 | 1st | €104 | Jun-11 | Buyout, expansion | DACH, Benelux | Nick Money-Kyrle, Fynamore Advisers | +44 7887 428 639 | | | | | |
| Suanfarma | Suan Biotech II | ES | €30 | FA | n/d | Nov-10 | Early-stage – biotech | ES | n/d | +34 91 344 68 90 | | | | | |
| Sunstone Capital | Sunstone Technology/Ventures Fund III | DEN | €100 | 1st | €85 | Dec-11 | Early-stage, expansion – tech, life sciences | Nordics and CEE | Jimmy Fussing Nielsen | +45 2012 6000 | | | | | |
| The Steve Leach Partnership | The Steve Leach Partnership | UK | £20 | FA | n/d | Dec-10 | Early-stage, expansion | UK | Steve Leach | n/d | | | | | |
| Troika Ventures | Troika Technology Ventures | RU | \$500 | FA | \$100 | Feb-12 | Early-stage, expansion – technology | Russia, Europe | Artyom Yukhin | +7 495 258 0534 | | | | | |
| VNT Management | Power Fund III | FIN | n/d | 1st | €42 | Nov-11 | Early-stage, expansion – cleantech | FIN, Europe | Jarmo Saaranen | +358 (0)6 3120 260 | | | | | |
| Wellcome Trust | Project Sigma | UK | £200 | FA | n/d | Mar-12 | Early-stage – biotechnology | UK, Europe | Nigel Keen | +44 20 7611 8888 | | | | | |
| Wise | Wisequity III | I | €170-200 | 2nd | €140 | Dec-11 | Buyout, expansion | I | Michele Semenzato | +39 02 854569 204 | | | | | |
| Zurmont Madison | Zurmont Madison Private Equity II | CH | CHF 250 | FA | n/d | Mar-12 | Buyout, lower mid-market | DACH | Andreas Ziegler | +41 44 267 5000 | | | | | |

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