

Paris, 7 January 2009

Press Release

Crédit Agricole Private Equity strengthens its Venture Capital team with the appointment of Christian Claussen

With effect of January 1, 2009, **Christian Claussen** has joined Crédit Agricole Private Equity as a Senior Partner of the Venture Capital Team. With a strong background of more than 10 years in the European venture capital industry, Christian will help to extend Crédit Agricole Private Equity's European reach and specifically facilitate access to investment opportunities in Germany and Northern Europe.

Prior to joining Crédit Agricole Private Equity, **Christian Claussen**, a German national, age 45, was a General Partner with TVM Capital, one of Germany's most longstanding and active venture capital firms. He joined TVM in 1998 and was promoted General Partner in 1999. During his tenure with TVM, Christian focussed on investments in communications, semiconductors, internet and software. He represented TVM as a Board Director and managed numerous portfolio companies such as Tantau Inc. (merged with NSDQ listed 724 Systems Inc. in 2001), Time Communications Systems (acquired by Genesys S.A. in 2000), Telesnap (acquired by Netwise AB in 2005), Coreoptics Inc., Netviewer AG, Definiens AG and Arteris Inc./S.A.

Christian started his professional career in 1990 with Siemens' Communication Networks Division in Munich. In 1994, he was promoted to Product Marketing Director of Optical Networking and became the Business Unit VP of Business Development in 1997. Among other functions, he initiated and led the taskforce that designed the blueprint for Mustang Ventures, Siemens Communications' corporate venture fund which started its extremely successful investment activities in 1999.

Christian holds a European degree in Telecommunication Systems Engineering and is a distinguished graduate of Ecole Supérieure d'Ingénieurs en Electronique et Electrotechnique (France) as well as the University of Essex (UK) and the University of Karlsruhe (Germany).

Antoine Colboc, head of Crédit Agricole Private Equity's Venture Capital business comments: "We strongly believe that the German Venture Capital market offers an untapped investment potential which we are eager to exploit with Christian's support. Given the current market situation we are extremely happy to be able to extend our team with a further very experienced venture capital professional".

Crédit Agricole Private Equity is a major player in financing innovative SMEs. With €375 million under management, mainly in the form of FCPI innovation funds, the Venture Capital team invests in young companies with strong growth potential in the information technologies and life sciences sectors.

The Venture Capital team is one of Europe's most active, and now consists of 12 investment professionals.

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Photo available from Crédit Agricole Private Equity

About Crédit Agricole Private Equity

Crédit Agricole Private Equity, an AMF-authorized investment management company and wholly-owned subsidiary of Crédit Agricole S.A., specializes in direct private equity investment in unlisted companies.

A multi-specialist, Crédit Agricole Private Equity has 50 investment teams focusing on different segments of the private equity market (Expansion & Buyout capital, Venture Capital, Mezzanine, Renewable Energy, PPP Infrastructure, Co-Investment and Special Situations) and manages a total of €2.8 billion in various types of private equity vehicle (FCPR, SICAR, FCPI and SCR). Crédit Agricole Private Equity supports entrepreneurs in their growth projects.

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