



**BELGIAN VENTURE CAPITAL  
&  
PRIVATE EQUITY ASSOCIATION vzw/asbl**

**NEWSLETTER**

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## BVA Newsletter 12

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members,

In our last newsletter in May everything seemed shiny. Record levels of fundraising (at least for those who succeeded in raising funds), record levels of investments - €940 mio in 2006 in Belgium -, banks willing to lend at unprecedented levels on covlite conditions, ... We were already predicting that this could not last for ever. But didn't we already say this last year?

In any case the markets turned and quite suddenly. Problems in a subsegment of household credits in the US, a market most of us never heard of, disturbed the nice climate we were enjoying like a tsunami. Aside the havoc wrecked it is time to asses how it will impact our industry, and how we can cope with it as BVA.

For the time being it seems to be more a problem for the banking community than for private equity. Losses taken on subprime loans and the like are much higher than those on buy-out loans. Venture capital is not involved, since it does not use leverage in a substantial way. The major damage to our community is deals that do not go through, or not under the same conditions or in the same timeframe. So it's a matter of opportunity or deal abortion costs. In the longer term however, higher interest costs and a potential credit crunch could impact our portfolio companies, investors' willingness to invest in our asset class or our portfolio companies. To that extent we all have an interest in a sound and stable financing system with a fair risk/reward balance. This requires trust among the market players, which is what we seemingly miss today. The private equity community on the other hand also got blamed for many issues and

behaviours that only concerned a tiny amount of our colleagues that unfortunately get a lot of attention.

The risk/reward ratio for lenders is getting the right attention once more. Rightfully the financial markets do not assume anymore that any risk can be passed on at any price. It must be said that a lot of investors didn't always seem conscious of the risks they took. Only the absolute return counted. In November 2006, the FSA in the UK already warned for this phenomenon. Nowadays spreads increase again and maybe already too much for creditworthy organisations and conditions for lending become tougher. Deals have been cancelled. On the Belgian level though, due to our more historic conservative and pragmatic attitude, we have not heard of good deals getting into trouble for that reason. Since we in general do not use the high leverage multiples of the bigger transactions, reasonable spreads and covenants will not hamper our deal, but of course will they have some impact on our valuations. Some banks just have fewer capabilities for lending till the markets have absorbed the debt overflow, but other less exposed banks now take the opportunity to increase their market shares at good conditions.

It seems that the situation is stabilizing, but the system remains fragile. We are still not sure whether everybody realises the risks they took and the damage it caused. Many knew what leverage can provide as rewards, with still some potential downsides, but only few experienced the potentials becoming reality at this scale. One could say that the problems stem primarily from risk-taking in financial products, and not from underlying



economic trends. If financial markets contract in the longer term, so will the bank's abilities regarding lending. This will hamper our deal activity, but also the activities of our portfolio companies.

Finally this all confirms that in our sector, it is crucial to take a long term view on investments, financing and valuation, and sometimes to have the guts to stick to this financial and strategic discipline. And secondly that we should focus on creating added value in the companies we support. This is also what distinguishes our sector most from either hedge funds or investors in public markets. This was also the topic of our latest workshop in the castle of Gaasbeek with professor Haspeslagh of INSEAD. Do we really add value? Are we not just surfing on the wave of lower interest rates or the right moment of buying or selling companies, as he bluntly stated? Are our remuneration systems well aligned with the interests of our final investors?

Our industry in general adds value, but evidence proves that not all of us do. The winners largely outdo the lower performers, so on average the numbers are good for the industry. The lesson is that you should pick the right teams not only for your portfolio company but for your private equity

team as well. This is also a trend we saw the last years in fundraising.

With over 100 persons attending this workshop and the following cocktail, we set a new record and an important precedent. Notwithstanding the market turmoil, the industry is thriving, and the BVA shows it provides the right services to its ever increasing member base. Our regular contacts with the public authorities, the employers' associations and the press ensured that in the current market circumstances, private equity was not blamed in Belgium for all the evil in the world. And the large press coverage we got in June with our press conference shows we are hitting the right cords.

So, all in all, the current financial crisis maybe turns into an opportunity if we assess well our strengths and weaknesses and act accordingly. The BVA hopes it can help you with this, as of next year under the chairmanship of our new chairman-elect Alain Parthoens.

Best regards

André-Xavier Cooreman  
Chairman BVA

## **AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF BELGIAN BUY-OUTS**

Only a very limited number of studies have been done on the performance of buy-outs in Europe in general, and in Belgium in particular. Therefore, a recent research carried out by UGent and Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School on the performance of Belgian buy-outs has retained our attention, even more as some the outcomes of the study are contradicting other research.

The research team consisted of Lotte Goossens (UGent) and Sophie Manigart and Miguel Meuleman (both from Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School). The research was an empirical study on the performance of Belgian companies that have been acquired through a buy-out.

The study highlights that there has been a steep increase in buy-outs in Belgium during the last couple of years. Where the research team has identified only 16 Belgian deals back in 1999, the number of MBO's has increased to almost 70 in 2005. The study compared the post transaction performance of MBO's of three groups: buy-outs backed by a PE player, buy-outs not backed by a PE player and institutional buy-outs. The study covers the period 1996-2006.

The dataset of the research team included 244 buy-outs of which 211 in Flanders and 33 in Brussels during 1996-2006. The deals have been identified through the Zephyr database and the Centre for Management Buy-Out Research. The company data have been gathered through the publicly available information in BelFirst. In the sample, 134 buy-outs were financed through PE while 110 buy-outs were without PE. In some 28% of the transactions, a foreign PE player was involved. The average age of the investee company was 22 years and half of the sample was older than 11 years. A

majority of deals were in mature industries.

The research team studied three parameters post buy-out transaction: growth of the companies (measured through revenues and total assets), evolution of headcount and performance (measured by profitability measures). The analysis was conducted on a relatively short time period post transaction as limited for the three years subsequent the buy-out transaction or even shorter for the companies which transaction date was young.

In terms of growth, the study shows that the buy-out triggers growth of the company. This is true both for growth in revenues as well as for assets. The conclusion is clear that growth accelerates post buy-out. It is striking to see that buy-outs backed by PE differentiate from the other groups by a somewhat slower revenue growth but have a more significant growth in assets. However the differences between the buy-out groups remain small.

In terms of evolution of headcount, buy-outs do create more jobs. The median headcount in the year prior to buy-out was 38 FTE's which grow to a median value of 54 FTE's three years after the buy-out. Contrary to some popular beliefs, buy-outs do not lead to a reduction in employment but generate jobs!

In terms of evolution of value creation, the study shows that companies after a buy-out see also an increase in their operating income. The research team noticed however that the growth in operating income is very different between the different buy-out groups and PE backed companies see even a negative evolution of their operating company compared to the institutional buy-outs which see a very strong improvement of operating income. Similar results go for the net margin



evolution where PE backed buy-outs lag behind the two other benchmark groups of the study.

This latter conclusion is clearly in contradiction with similar research done in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. There, a great many of studies confirmed that PE backed buy-outs not only create more growth and jobs but also managed to improve results and margins. The positive outcome is explained by the approach of PE players where debt financing imposes improvement of margins and more efficiency of the capital employed. Furthermore, interests of management and shareholders are more aligned because management also becomes shareholder after the buy-out.

A study by Valentin Toubeau (Solvay Business School at ULB) which was presented in a previous newsletter showed

that the profitability of companies after buy-outs evolved favourably.

As mentioned above, the empirical study focused on a relatively short period of time post buy-out whereas earlier impact studies of the BVA indicated that Belgian PE players employ a relatively long time horizon for their investment. Furthermore, the BelFirst data give the results of the legal entity on a stand-alone basis whereas results on a consolidated level could be more appropriated to apprehend the value creation for shareholders.

No doubt, more research on the Belgian situation is necessary to better understand the value creation process of buy-outs.

***For more information, please contact  
BVA Secretary General Guy Geldhof:  
+32/475/52.86.86***

## **BVA AGENDA 2007**

**5 December: Board Meeting + Presidents' Meeting (@ De Warande)**

**11 December: workshop 4 "Pensions"**

## NEW BVA MEMBERS

*The BVA is pleased to welcome the following new members.*

### Associate Members:

#### **BDO Atrio Business Planning Services**

Mr. Jan Vandommele  
Kuringsesteenweg 304  
3511 Hasselt  
TEL: 32/11/28.60.60  
FAX: 32/11/28.60.69

#### **DLA Piper UK LLP**

Mr. Wouter Vandenberg  
Avenue Louise 106  
1050 Brussels  
TEL: 32/2/500.15.00  
FAX: 32/2/500.16.03

#### **KBC Bank**

Mr. Yves Lambrecht  
Havenlaan 12  
1080 Brussels  
TEL: 32/2/429.10.52  
FAX: 32/2/429.60.68

#### **Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick**

Mr. Daniel Garabedian  
Boulevard de l'Empéreur 3  
1000 Brussels  
TEL : 32/2/551.14.26  
FAX : 32/2/551.14.04

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

*On June 7, the BVA organised a workshop on "Venture Capital & Open Innovation". The workshop was held at and sponsored by Capricorn Venture partners and Quest Management.*

The introduction was given by Mr. Marc Lambrechts, Capricorn Venture Partners & President of the BVA Start Up & Innovation Committee.

Prof. Dr. Wim Vanhaverbeke from Hasselt University & Eindhoven University of Technology then gave an introduction to Open Innovation.

Dr. Staf Van Reet, chairman of Movetis gave the corporate investor's perspective and Mr. Ignace Vernimme from Stibbe gave the concluding presentation on " IP + Open innovation = Open IP?"

On October 4, the BVA organised the first annual BVA Cocktail at castle Gaasbeek. It was a networking event with academic seasoning. It took place thanks to sponsors Stibbe and Ernst & Young.

The evening started with a guided tour of the premises and was followed by an interesting presentation "Private Equity backing and Value Creation" by prof. Philippe Haspeslagh from INSEAD. Afterwards, there was ample opportunity and time for networking.

The evening was an amazing success; about 110 people attended and all of them agreed the BVA should organise this kind of event more often, which we will certainly do!

## THE BELGIAN PRIVATE PRIVAK OF 2007: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE EQUITY AND VENTURE CAPITAL

Since 23 May 2007, a new Royal Decree governs the statute of the Belgian Private Privak. The intent of this Decree is to make the Private Privak more accessible and flexible compared to the previous 2003 regime. Following these changes, the Private Privak definitely is as a tailor-made vehicle for private equity and venture capital.

If one takes a look at the current applicable legislation, the most *attractive benefits* to a Private Privak are:

- A limited tax base for a first category Private Privak (which is a Private Privak investing *only in qualifying participations*<sup>1</sup>) and more specifically a *full exemption* for *capital gains* on qualifying participations as well as a *full exemption* on *dividends* received from qualifying participations.
- A second category Private Privak (meaning a Private Privak holding a mixed portfolio of debt and equity instruments issued by non-listed companies which can include loans) is subject to the ordinary corporate tax regime, though also benefits from a *full exemption* on *capital gains* on qualifying shares and (different to a first category Private Privak) a *95% exemption* for *dividends* received on participations that qualify for the participation exemption.
- Regarding profit distributions:
  - Full withholding tax exemption on distributions *upon liquidation or share buy back of the Private Privak* (first and second category), to the extent they result from capital gains on participations (any participations, not only qualifying participations).
- Moreover, distributions upon liquidation and share buy back of a *first category* Private Privak are in any case free from withholding tax (meaning irrespective the origin of the gains). For Belgian individual investors this results in having a return of investment completely free from Belgian tax.
- For profit distributions *during the lifespan of the (first and second category) Private Privak*:
  - A full withholding tax exemption to the extent they result from capital gains on participations (any participations, not only qualifying participations).
  - And specifically for foreign corporate investors: full withholding tax exemption of the part of the Private Privak-dividends that result from dividend distributions by foreign companies.
  - Dividends from a Private Privak are in the hands of Belgian corporate investor's tax exempt up to 95% and this regardless of the size of the participation in the Private Privak and regardless of the holding period, as far as they result from capital gains or dividends from qualifying participations.
- For profit distributions *by investee companies to the (first and second category) Private Privak*:
  - A full withholding tax exemption for distributions by *Belgian* investee companies if the Private Privak meets the condition of a minimal shareholding of 10%<sup>2</sup> and holds the participation for a minimum period of 1 year.
  - The Private Privak is from a Belgian perspective entitled to the benefits of double tax treaties which Belgium has entered into, or

<sup>1</sup> Shares of non-listed companies that qualify for the Belgian participation exemption, abstracting from minimum holding and minimum holding period requirements.

<sup>2</sup> From 2009 onwards.

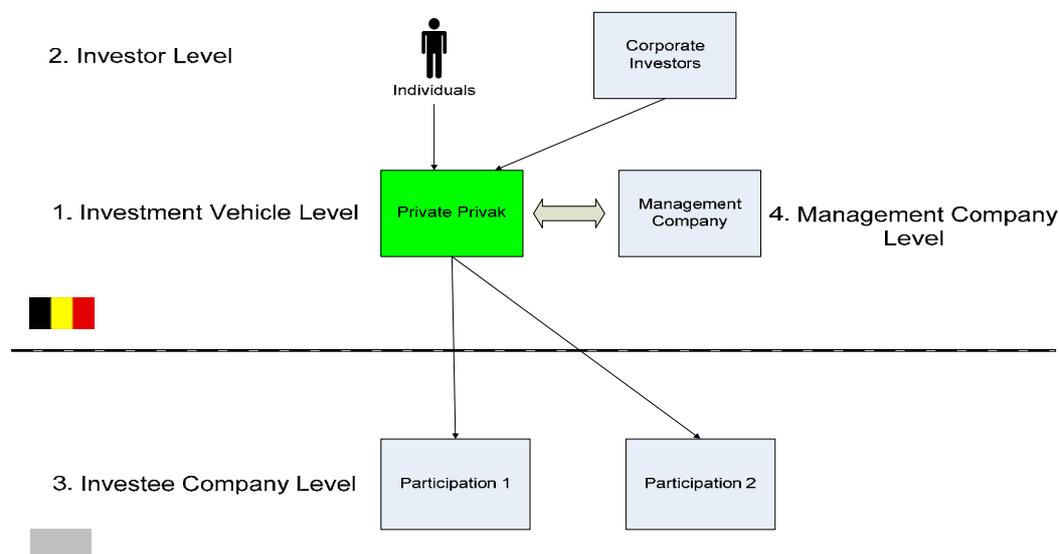
(for EU participations) of the parent-subsidary directive which might be important especially for dividend distributions by *foreign* investee companies to the Private Privak.

- Finally: The fees charged by the management company to the investment vehicle are exempt from VAT

Summarized, the new Private Privak may be described as an attractive investment

vehicle, having separate legal body with limited liability and being subject to a transparent and advantageous tax regime.

Hereinafter we will present more in detail the legal and tax aspects of the new Private Privak and this at the different levels involved (meaning the investment vehicle level, the investor level, the investee company level and finally the management company level).



## 1. Fund or Investment Vehicle Level

The Private Privak is established for a maximum period of 12 years as one of three common company types (NV, Comm.V.A. or Comm.V), with the aim of collective investment of funds in financial instruments which are issued by non-listed companies.

The tax regime of the Private Privak depends on the type of investment. A Private Privak that invests only in “qualifying” participations<sup>3</sup> will be subject to corporate taxation but only on a very limited taxable base<sup>4</sup>.

In practice, this means that the taxable base of the Private Privak is virtually nihil.

Also allowed is the Private Privak that, within its permitted activities, invests in financial instruments other than “qualifying” participations. This Private Privak will however be subject to the normal regime of corporate taxation (given that the special tax base is no longer applicable) but it remains a Private Privak, meaning that all other advantages of having the “Private Privak” status still apply.

Because it is subject to corporate taxation, the Private Privak is entitled to the benefits of double taxation treaties which Belgium

<sup>3</sup> Shares that qualify, in principle, for the Belgian participation exemption, or shares of another Private Privak (or temporary investments of excess cash).

<sup>4</sup> The abnormal and gratuitous benefits received + the non tax-deductible costs other than capital losses on shares.

has entered into, or of the parent-sub subsidiary directive. This is important in a number of countries where the investee companies may be established in order to avoid capital gains (upon exit) from being taxed there (as well as for possible dividend payments by the investee companies).

Dividend distributions by the Private Privak (nonetheless if the Private Privak only invests in qualifying participations or holds a mixed portfolio) are exempt from being taxed at source in so far as the dividends paid out result from capital gains on shares or, if the beneficiary is a foreign company, result from dividends paid out on shares in foreign companies.

In the case of dividend distributions which the Private Privak may have received from investee companies, one has to make a distinction. A Private Privak investing in qualifying participations enjoys an exemption of 100%, whereas Private Privaks holding a mixed portfolio debt and equity instruments issued by non-listed companies enjoys an exemption of 95% of dividends received. The Private Privak in any case is not required to meet the condition of a minimum shareholding of 10% or a purchase value of 1,200,000 euros, where these conditions in general do count for Belgian corporations subject to the Belgian ordinary corporate income tax rules.

In the case of a Private Privak holding a portfolio of qualifying participations only, distributions upon liquidation and distributions in connection with the buy back of own shares are exempt from withholding tax, regardless of the origin of the gains upon liquidation or buy-back.

## **2. Investor Level**

In principle, a Private Privak must have a minimum of 6 investors. These can be corporate or individual investors. Associated investors (in the case of companies) or related investors (in the case of individuals) will only count as one

shareholder. Each investor must invest at least 50,000 euros in the Private Privak.

The AGM in principle must decide with a majority of at least four shareholders who together own more than 50% of the voting rights (linked to all securities with voting rights) (subject to further provisions in Company Law or in the articles of association). Nonetheless, a more flexible decision making process is possible if certain conditions are met.

The shares in the Private Privak can be transferred to third parties on condition that the latter invest at least 50,000 euros or to the heirs of a qualifying investor.

## **3. Investee Company Level**

A Private Privak is allowed to invest in financial instruments issued by non-listed companies, wherever these might be based.

There is no minimum investment applicable. However, there is a maximum: the Private Privak must not, either directly or indirectly, hold the majority of voting rights for more than 2 years in an investee company.

An important exception to this rule is the Management Buy Out. If the Private Privak is used as a finance vehicle to finance the MBO and one or several directors of the target company become shareholders of the Private Privak, control over the target can be exercised by the Private Privak.

A Private Privak can enter into shareholding agreements, which for example govern the voting rights with regard to investee companies. Furthermore, it is allowed to restrict the free transferability of the shares in such agreements.

#### 4. Management Company Level

Different from the 2003-regime, the intervention of an external management company is no longer required.

Additionally, if the Private Privak uses the services of a management company, the fees charged by the management company to the investment vehicle are exempt from VAT.

Finally, we add that the Private Privak legislation does not stipulate any special provision concerning carried interest.

**For more information, please contact Tiberghien, Mr. Bernard Peeters or Mrs. Mieke Van Zandweghe on +32/2/773.40.00.**

### NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

#### ALLEGRO INVESTMENT FUND REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:

**Het Vlaams Innovatiefonds (Vinnof), Capital-E ARKIV en Allegro investeren 1,25 miljoen euro in de biotechnologische spitstechnologie van Pharma Diagnostics.**

19/06/2007: Dankzij de participatie van Capital-E (750.000 euro), Vinnof (250.000 euro) en Allegro (250.000 euro) verankert Pharma Diagnostics biotechnologische

spitstechnologie in Vlaanderen. Pharma Diagnostics is een start-upbedrijf in de bio- en nanotechnologie dat werd opgericht door dokter Patrick Englebienne en zijn echtgenote mevrouw Anne Vanhooacker.

***Voor meer informatie, contacteer de heer Geert Everaert: + 32/485/66.46.54***

#### ARKIMEDES REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:

**ARKImedes-Fonds komt op kruissnelheid.**

19/06/2007: De elf ARKIV's waarin het ARKImedes-Fonds investeert, hebben al voor 23.962.742 euro geïnvesteerd in 38 ondernemingen. Hiermee komt de ARKImedes-regeling op kruissnelheid.

ARKImedes investeert in risicokapitaal-fondsen en verhoogt daardoor de middelen die beschikbaar zijn voor investeringen in KMO's. De investeringsperiode van investeringsfondsen (ARKIV's) bedraagt doorgaans vier tot vijf jaar. Omdat de meeste ARKIV's pas een goed jaar geleden werden opgericht,

zullen de belangrijkste investeringen vooral volgen in de komende vier jaar.

Nadien kunnen ook vervolginvesteringen plaatshebben in de bestaande portfolio van de ARKIV's.

**Het ARKImedes-Fonds investeert 12,3 miljoen euro in de oprichting van twee nieuwe durfkapitaalfondsen: Privark Fund en ARK-ANGELS Fund.**

13/07/2007: Het ARKImedes-Fonds erkent twee nieuwe ARKIV's en participeert voor minimaal 12,3 miljoen euro in Privark Fund en ARK-ANGELS

Fund. Daarmee zullen er dertien ARKIV's operationeel zijn onder de ARKImedes-koepel.

Privark Fund is een nog op te richten ARKIV, met het ARKImedes-Fonds en Privast Capital Partners II als aandeelhouders. Privast Capital Partners II organiseert momenteel een fundraisingoperatie en beoogt daarmee zo'n 50 miljoen euro bijeen te brengen. Dit fonds is de opvolger van Privask Capital Partners I, een investeringsfonds dat werd opgericht in 1999 en dat onder meer investeerde in Metris, NanoCyl, Bricsys, Complinet en Eurogentec. Het Privark Fund zal investeren in ondernemingen in de vroegtijdige fase van expansie. Het fonds hanteert daarbij een uiterst anti-cyclische aanpak met een dubbele investeringsfilter en focust op die ondernemingen waar de beste toegevoegde waarde kan worden gerealiseerd. De fondsgrootte van Privark Fund bedraagt 20 miljoen euro, waarvan 9,8 miljoen euro van het ARKImedes-Fonds komt.

Het ARK-ANGELS Fund is ook een nog op te richten ARKIV - op initiatief van BAN Vlaanderen - en groepeert een aantal business angels. Dit fonds zal optreden als co-investeringsfonds en investeert enkel in projecten waarin tegelijkertijd andere business angels uit het netwerk van BAN Vlaanderen investeren. Op die manier kan men op een unieke manier gebruik maken van hun competenties op het vlak van de selectie en begeleiding

van investeringsdossiers. De totale fondsgrootte zou tussen de 5 en 7,5 miljoen euro bedragen, waarvan de helft van het ARKImedes-Fonds komt.

**De ARKImedesregeling krijgt meer slagkracht. Het maximum investeringsbedrag voor starters en KMO's in Vlaanderen is verhoogd van 1 miljoen euro naar 1,5 miljoen euro.**

11/10/2007: In het Belgisch Staatsblad van 8 oktober II. verscheen "het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering d.d. 6 juli 2007 tot wijziging van het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 3 december 2004 houdende uitvoering van het decreet van 19 december 2003 betreffende het activeren van risicokapitaal in Vlaanderen."

In mensentaal betekent dit dat de elf door ARKImedes Management erkende risicokapitaalfondsen, de zogenaamde ARKIV's, vanaf nu anderhalf miljoen euro mogen investeren in één doelonderneming en dit per periode van twaalf maanden. Voorheen was dat maar één miljoen euro. Met deze beslissing krijgt de ARKImedesregeling extra slagkracht om beloftevolle starters en KMO's in Vlaanderen te ondersteunen.

***Voor meer informatie, contacteer de heer Ben Jehaes: + 32/495/54.78.40***

**BAEKELAND FUND REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

On June 20, the immunoprofiling company AlgoNomics announced that it raised 1.5 million euros to further accelerate the development of its in vitro screening platform that expands the company's existing immunogenicity screening services and tools.

**The financing round was led by Baekeland Fund II**, and subscribed by the Gemma Frisius Fund, TrustCapital and the

Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB). Ghent University also contributed extra expertise from the VIB-UGent laboratory for Molecular Biology under supervision of Prof. dr. Johan Grooten.

Algonomics' patented Epibase screening tool is currently widely applied for the immunogenicity screening and optimization of biotherapeutics, such as therapeutic antibodies, biosimilars and vaccines. Immunogenicity is a side effect



from therapeutic proteins, where the patient recognizes the drug as a "foreign" substance. This causes the patient's immune system to mount a defence against the therapeutic drug, resulting in significant reduction of efficacy and a rapid clearance of the drug from the circulation.

Only a few weeks before, **Baekeland Fund II participated in a new financing round of Gemidis.** Next to existing investors as GIMV, Fortis Private Equity, Baekeland Fund and Alfineon, the new investor Quest for Growth invested in this financing round, which resulted in an additional 6 million euros for Gemidis.

Gemidis is a spin-off company from Ghent University and IMEC and was officially founded in August 2004. The company

develops, produces and sells LCOS imagers and driver electronics for both consumer and professional markets. Gemidis has its headquarters in Ghent and has operational facilities in Hsinchu (Taiwan) and also representatives in Japan. The company aims to become the new benchmark in the Micro Display Industry for cost-effective LCOS imager production and remains committed to its horizontal business model of selling LCOS imagers and driver electronics as a platform on which every customer may build their own applications.

***You can find more information on [www.baekelandfonds.be](http://www.baekelandfonds.be).***

**BAKER & MCKENZIE REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Jan Peters and Maurits Tausk join the International Private Equity Team of Baker & McKenzie Amsterdam**

27/8/2007: Baker & McKenzie Amsterdam has recently hired Jan Peters, partner with CMS Derks Star Busmann.

Peters will assist in the formation and development of a new International Private Equity Group at Baker & McKenzie Amsterdam combining fund formation and transaction work with a particular focus on Italy, Central and Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe and the CIS member states.

Earlier this year, Baker & McKenzie had already secured the services of fund formation specialist Maurits Tausk who joined from Clifford Chance. Jan Peters is the second high profile hire for the Group this year.

Tausk and Peters add further strength to the combined tax and legal group which can further draw upon the expertise of renowned specialists such as Marc van Campen, Thomas Mitchell and Marcello Distaso.

***For more information, please contact Chantal Rademaker de Ridder: +31/20/551.79.45.***

**CAPRICORN VENTURE PARTNERS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Capricorn Venture Partners hits half-way milestone with € 50 million for its latest Capricorn Cleantech Fund**

28/09/2007: Today the Belgian based venture capital firm Capricorn Venture Partners announced that it signed up

LRM, the regional investment company for Limburg (Belgium) as investor to its Capricorn Cleantech Fund. The Capricorn Cleantech Fund held its first closing in November 2006. Including LRM's investment of € 10 million, the Fund reached its half-way milestone of € 50



million. Other investors in the Fund include Electrabel (a member of the Suez Group), M.R.B.B. (holding company of the group Boerenbond), PMV (holding company of the Flemish government) and several pension funds and entrepreneurs /investors. The final closing of the Fund, with a target size of € 75 to € 100 million, is foreseen by the end of 2007.

Over the past months, Capricorn's Cleantech Fund already made its first investments in SBAE Industries NV and fluXXion BV.

The investment team experiences healthy deal flow and is negotiating several term sheets with candidate portfolio companies.

Capricorn Venture Partners is also pleased to announce that Steven Levecke has joined its investment team as Investment Associate. Steven joins Capricorn's team after 4 of years at PwC. Steven holds a Masters degree in Business Economics from Vlekho Business School and a Master in Financial Management from Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School.

***For more information, please contact Dr. Jos B. Peeters: +32/16/28.41.00***

**DELOITTE REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Deloitte's sponsorship at premier Asian PEI event reinforces Deloitte's leading position in M&A**

Over 600 PE executives converged at this year's 2nd annual SuperReturn Asia event held in Hong Kong on 18-21, September. Once again, Deloitte enjoyed a prominent position on the conference agenda and significant branding throughout the 2-day main conference event. M&A leaders from around the globe addressed the delegates on the current marketplace and the outlook for continued investment in Asia. Delegate attendance drew many of the leading players in the Asia PE market and well exceeded last year's ground breaking program by over 200 participants, providing leaders with

opportunities to build relationships with existing and emerging funds as the PE market in Asia continues to grow.

Unique to this year's program agenda was the increased attention on the fast growing transaction oriented marketplace in India. In early April, Deloitte announced the launch of its own dedicated private equity practice in the region, Deloitte Corporate Finance Services India, established to address the growing private equity market and provide investors with specialist services spanning the M&A lifecycle.

***For more information, please contact Mrs. Lieve Creten: +32/2/600.62.43***

**FIN.CO REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Fin.Co invests together with the management 1.3 million € in Sealease. Sealease offers full service long term rental products to the professional yacht charter business.**

27/07/2007: Founded in 2006, Sealease, the world's first leasing company, which is fully dedicated to the yacht charter business. The company provides unique and integrated solutions for the acquisition of yachts, which then become fully available to charter operators for their



sailing vacation businesses. Sealease is headquartered in Brussels and has also offices in France.

**Fin.Co and Ludo Van Hove sell all the shares in electro-technical and data network installation specialist Flexelec to Cegelec.**

08/08/2007: Cegelec, an integrated international group providing technological

services to companies, public and local authorities, has acquired Flexelec. Founded in Antwerp in 1963, Flexelec currently employs around 70 people and posted over 7 million EUR in revenues in 2006. The acquisition of Flexelec will enable Cegelec to strengthen its market position in Flanders.

***For more information, please contact Mr. Hubert Plouvier: +32/3/202.04.53.***

**GIMV REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**GIMV sells up to 1,285,713 shares on the occasion of the Alfacam IPO**

16/05/2007: GIMV announces that it will sell a minimum of 952,380 and a maximum of 1,285,713 Alfacam shares on the occasion of the IPO. The shares GIMV sells together with the ones it keeps represent a total increase in equity value of EUR 13.2 million compared to the last published equity value of GIMV on December 31 2006.

**GIMV enters into exclusive negotiations with Balta Industries to acquire Balta Wallcoverings**

29/05/2007: GIMV announces that it has reached an agreement with Balta Industries to enter into exclusive and final negotiations on the acquisition of Balta Wallcoverings.

**Geoffroy Dubus to head GIMV's French ICT activities**

31/05/2007: GIMV announced today that Geoffroy Dubus has joined the company to head the French ICT (Information & Communication Technology) investment activities and to assist with the start of the French office of GIMV.

**GIMV sells its stake in Captor**

13/06/2007: GIMV announces that it has sold its stake in Captor, a European provider of workforce management solutions, to Kronos.

**GIMV realises EUR 11.8 million capital gain as a result of the exercise of the Telenet options by Liberty Global**

21/06/2007: GIMV announces that, as a result of the exercise of the call option on Telenet Group Holding by Belgian Cable Investors, which is controlled by Liberty Global, it realizes a capital gain of EUR 11.8 million on these shares. The exercise of this option signifies a cash income for GIMV of EUR 95.1 million. The settlement of the exercise will take place within 10 business days of today unless the exercise is withdrawn before settlement.

**DEXIA and GIMV team up to launch a fund for infrastructure and real estate construction projects**

26/06/2007: Dexia Bank Belgium and GIMV announced today that they are in the process of launching a new non-listed fund, which will focus on infrastructure and real estate construction projects, mainly in the Benelux. The target size for the fund amounts to well over EUR 100 million, of which Dexia Bank Belgium and GIMV each will contribute 20 percent. The new fund fits in with both parties' continued

expansion strategy and with a clear interest by institutional investors for this type of investments.

### **GIMV sells its stake in French company DTS**

09/07/2006: GIMV sells its 42%-stake in the French company Drilling Technical Supply (DTS) to Thomas & Betts Corporation. DTS has been established in 1983 and specializes in the manufacturing and marketing of electrical and light equipment for hazardous and hostile areas. The main product lines are lighting, panels and enclosures. DTS is market leader in France and has a direct presence in more than 30 countries on 6 continents.

### **Investment in management buy-out of Grandeco (Balta Wallcoverings) finalised**

13/07/2007: GIMV announces that its investment in Grandeco has been approved by the antitrust authorities and has therefore been finalised. In May GIMV already announced that it was negotiating on this transaction. Today GIMV acquires a majority share of 86% in the company. Grandeco is the former wallcoverings division of the Balta Group. As one of Europe's leading wallcovering manufacturers, Grandeco mainly produces high quality vinyl wallpaper under its own brand names (a.o. Ideco and Grantil) as well as under private label. The company operates production sites in Belgium (Tielt) and France (Châlons-en-Champagne). It has also a distribution centre in the UK (Alfreton). Balta Wallcoverings' products are sold mainly in the Benelux, France, Russia and the UK.

### **GIMV adds two international top executives to its ICT Advisory Board**

16/07/2007: Since 2002 an advisory board is supporting GIMV's activities in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The board members

are all top managers with many years of experience in international technology companies. The advisory board guides the ICT team when taking investment decisions and when looking for new investment opportunities. In addition, the board's extensive network adds significant value to GIMV's portfolio companies.

GIMV is therefore very pleased to welcome Dr. Yossi Kofman, co-founder and CEO of the Israeli company Modem-Art, and CEO of HP France Yves de Talhouët as members of its ICT Advisory Board. By adding these two members to its ICT Advisory Board, GIMV is once again putting into practice its ambition to become a Pan-European player.

### **New organizational structure and reinforcement of the Corporate Investment teams in Belgium and the Netherlands**

17/07/2007: GIMV has appointed Geert-Jan van Logtestijn as Executive Vice-President Corporate Investment Belgium and the Netherlands. Geert-Jan van Logtestijn, who until recently was in charge of the Ernst & Young Transaction Advisory Services department in the Netherlands, will manage the GIMV Corporate Investment activities in the Benelux. Both the Belgian and the Dutch Corporate Investment team will report to Geert-Jan. Even though both teams will continue to operate completely independently, this set-up will allow them to side up even more.

In his position as Vice-President Corporate Investment Belgium and the Netherlands, Geert-Jan van Logtestijn will take over from Guy Mampaey and Paul Deiters, who have respectively managed the Belgian and the Dutch team.

As of September 1 Guy Mampaey will take on the position of Executive Vice-President Corporate Investment Projects, henceforth focusing on specific Corporate Investment transactions in the existing GIMV core markets and on the relations with various European buy-out funds in which GIMV is already participating.

Furthermore, Paul Deiters chose to hand over his responsibilities, after a long career within the private equity branch and nineteen years of supervising the Dutch Halder team.

Finally, two new investment managers have joined the Belgian Corporate Investment team: Bart Houben and Wouter Verlinden.

### **GIMV takes majority share in new Acertys Group**

18/07/2007: GIMV announces the acquisition, together with the management and Walter Vandeputte, of the companies Meda nv (Aartselaar – Belgium), Vandeputte Medical bv (Utrecht – Netherlands) and Vandeputte Medical & Security nv (Boechout – Belgium) from the Vandeputte Group. The new group will operate under the name Acertys Group. GIMV is taking a controlling share of 50.1% in the new group.

### **GIMV intends to sell its stake in Business Architects International**

10/09/2007: GIMV announces today that it intends to sell its stake in Business Architects International, a leading European solutions provider offering ComponentBanker®, a mortgage and loan solution for financial institutions, to the French listed Sopra Group.

### **GIMV sells its stake in Dutch Bever Zwerfspor**

19/09/2007: GIMV sells its stake in Dutch company Bever Zwerfspor to the Belgian corporation AS Adventure. Founded in 1977, Bever Zwerfspor has 29 stores (of which 28 in the Netherlands and 1 in Belgium) and holds a leading position in the market of high-end outdoor articles and accessories in the Netherlands. Bever Zwerfspor sells a wide range of clothing, footwear and other articles for outdoor activities, including expeditions, mountaineering and camping. The outdoor

chain offers international renowned brands, including The North Face, Tenson, Haglöfs, Fjällräven en Berghaus but also sells a large number of private label products. In 2006 Bever zwerfspor achieved sales of 45.8 million EUR with almost 600 employees.

### **GIMV takes majority stake in Le Cobourg**

01/10/2007: GIMV announces that it has acquired a 90% stake in Le Cobourg, a Belgian producer of traditional salad spreads, via a management buy-in (Denderhoutem – BE). The remaining shares will be owned by the new management team.

### **GIMV starts LBO activities in France and signs partnership with Pragma Capital**

26/10/2007: GIMV announces that it will also operate in the French buy-out market through its office in Paris. In order to support its investment activities GIMV signed a partnership with French Pragma Capital and invests EUR 40 million in the Pragma II buy-out fund.

### **GIMV takes majority share in Dutch industrial services company Numac Groep**

06/11/2007: GIMV announces that it has acquired, through its Dutch subsidiary Halder, a majority shareholding of 60% in Numac Groep, a Dutch company specialising in technical services concerning industrial installations and machinery. The founders and the management retain the remaining shares. No financial details on this transaction will be published.

### **GIMV also at the origin of largest biotech IPO ever on Euronext Brussels**

06/11/2007: GIMV is proud to announce that Ablynx managed to realise the largest biotech IPO on Euronext Brussels ever.



GIMV, an Ablynx shareholder from the start, has acquired through different capital rounds 3,414,979 Ablynx shares, or 14.21 percent of the non-diluted share capital before the IPO. Since only new shares have been issued on the occasion of the IPO, the existing shareholders did not sell any shares. The introduction price is set at EUR 7.0 per share.

### **GIMV enters into exclusive negotiations with Babcock & Brown for sale of Westerlund Group**

14/11/2007: GIMV announces that it has reached an agreement with Babcock & Brown to enter into exclusive and final

negotiations for the sale of its stake in Westerlund Group.

### **GIMV takes majority shareholding in Lintor/Verbinnen Group**

16/11/2007: GIMV announces that it has concluded an agreement to acquire an 80% interest in the Lintor/Verbinnen group, Belgium's leading integrated processor of chicken products (Olen, BE). The Verbinnen family will hold the remaining shares. GIMV expects to close the transaction by the end of the year.

***For more information, please contact Mr. Frank De Leenheer: +32/3/290.22.18***

## **INDUFIN REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Vemedia Pharma NV haalt EUR 10.465.662,28 op met de publieke plaatsing van 4.530.590 nieuwe aandelen bij apothekers, dokters en andere aangeschreven investeerders in België en Nederland.**

26/04/2007: Vemedia Pharma NV maakt vandaag de details bekend van haar kapitaalsverhoging waarop kon worden ingeschreven tussen 15 maart 2007 en 20 april 2007. Als gevolg van de transactie zal Vemedia Pharma NV 4.530.590 nieuwe aandelen met VVPR-strip uitgeven aan een prijs van EUR 2,31 per aandeel. De aandelen zullen geleverd worden op 22 mei op een "when issued or delivered basis".

Op het aanbod werd ingeschreven voor een totaal bedrag van EUR 10.465.662,28 hetzij 4.530.590 nieuwe aandelen. Er zullen geen bestaande aandelen aangeboden worden. Apothekers, dokters en aanverwante beroepen schreven in

voor EUR 6.465.662, terwijl Indufin NV intekende voor EUR 4 miljoen.

**23/05/2007: Indufin verkoopt haar participatie in Vivaboxes aan Sodexho.**

### **KBC Private Equity and Indufin support management buy-out of Actief Interim, Actief Construct and Actief**

29/05/2007: KBC Private Equity and Indufin, together with Mark Maesen (Managing Director), have acquired all the shares of Actief Interim, Actief Construct and Actief. The new shareholders intend to continue the current growth strategy through the geographic expansion of the office network.

***For more information, please contact Joris Rome: +32/2/351.08.05.***

**ING REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Vesalius Biocapital Partners today announced the launch of Vesalius Biocapital S.A. SICAR life science fund with commitments of at least 45 million Euro.**

05/10/2007: The Fund is incorporated as a public limited company under Luxemburg law and has the status of a risk capital investment company ('SICAR'). The Fund's major investors participating in the first closing, ING Belgium NV/SA and ParticipatieMaatschappij Vlaanderen (PMV) NV, have agreed to invest 15 and 10 million Euro respectively. Other investors are to commit 20 million Euro. After the successful first closing, Vesalius Biocapital Partners expects to complete the fundraising by the summer of 2008 with a total of 100 million Euro under management.

Vesalius Biocapital S.A. SICAR is a new venture capital fund focusing on the creation and growth of European life

science companies. The Fund's primary geographic focus includes the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Vesalius Biocapital S.A. SICAR aims at investing in an intelligent mix of early- and later-stage life science companies for which short and middle term value creation opportunities have been clearly identified. The overall investment strategy of the Fund will be matched closely to the life span of its individual investments and will sufficiently diversify the risks within the investment portfolio.

The Fund has established a strong investment team led by Dr. Gaston Matthyssens, Alain Parthoens, Dr. Bert van Toor and Stéphane Verdood.

**For further information, please contact Mr. Alain Parthoens: +32/2/547.21.03**

**KBC PRIVATE EQUITY REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**KBC Private Equity closes transaction with Hungarian printing company Grafika Press**

25/05/2007: KBC Private Equity acquired a minority shareholding in Grafika Press, a Hungarian printing company, after receiving the approval of the Competition Office. In addition, KBC Private Equity provided Grafika with a mezzanine facility to finance the acquisition of assets from Szikra, another printing company. These transactions represent the first deal that KBC Private Equity has closed in Hungary.

**KBC Private Equity – the private equity company of the KBC group – and Indufin, together with Mark Maesen**

**(Managing Director), have acquired all the shares of Actief Interim, Actief Construct and Actief.**

29/05/2007: The new shareholders intend to continue the current growth strategy through the geographic expansion of the office network. With 37 offices, the Actief group is one of the top 10 institutions in the Belgian interim market. It provides employment for both blue- and white collar workers, and specialises in the service voucher and construction markets. Partly due to the high quality of its services, Actief Interim has been named 'Best Employer in Belgium' in both 2006 and 2007. In 2006, the group recorded a turnover of approximately 103 billion EUR.

Closure of the deal is still subject to the approval of a number of bodies, including the Competition Authority.

### **KBC Private Equity sells its 50% stake in Press & Plåt**

01/06/2007: KBC Private Equity has sold its 50% stake in Press & Plåt NV to the Japanese company, Press Kogyo, raising the latter's stakeholding in Press & Plåt to 100%.

For more information, please contact Philippe de Vicq: +32 2 429 36 45 or Mr. Joris Rome (Indufin): +32 2 351 08 05

### **KBC Private Equity sells its 30 % stake in D&D Media Group to Palamon Capital Partners**

15/06/2007: KBC Private Equity has sold its 30% stake in the D&D Media Group to the pan-European private equity fund, Palamon Capital Partners. KBC Private Equity's investment in D&D Media Group dates from August 2002, when a management buy-in was carried out under the leadership of Marc Dullaert and Paul Dumas. Ruth Devenyns, Investment Director of KBC Private Equity and outgoing Chairman of D&D Media Group, commented: 'Over the past five years, Marc Dullaert and Paul Dumas have laid the foundations for a European media group with financial support from KBC. In Palamon, they have the ideal partner to achieve their ambitions for continued growth.'

### **KBC Arkiv makes follow-up investment in Intek**

13/07/2007: KBC Arkiv has invested an additional one million euros in Intek, a young Flemish company specialising in the development and distribution of electro-mechanical locks. The locks, sold under the name 'eKeys', are developed by means of proprietary technology and combine the benefits of traditional cylinder locks and badge access control systems.

The capital injection will be used to fund growth and to improve control of production activities.

### **KBC Private Equity and Frank Deceuninck invest in the growth of Wever & Ducre**

13/07/2007: KBC Private Equity ('KBC PE') – together with current principal shareholder, Frank Deceuninck – have invested in Wever & Ducre.

Wever & Ducre develops, manufactures and markets high-quality lighting throughout Europe. The company has been growing on average by 15% per year for the past five years and is extremely profitable. Wever & Ducre is now active in more than 65 countries.

### **SteelThermHex NV raises 4 million euros from investors**

31/08/2007: Finindus, Gemma Frisius Fonds K.U. Leuven, Allegro Investment Fund, KBC Arkiv and a number of private investors have together invested more than 4 million euros in SteelThermHex, a young Flemish enterprise specialised in the production of sandwich panels with a honeycomb core that weigh far less than traditional structures.

### **KBC Private Equity acquires majority stake in Dynaco (Belgium)**

04/09/2007: Benoit Coenraets, founder and owner of Dynaco, has decided to sell a majority stake in the company to KBC Private Equity, which strongly believes in the growth potential of Dynaco and which is committed to supporting the company and its management team.

### **KBC Private Equity invests in VMD**

27/09/2007: KBC Private Equity is investing 3 000 000 euros in VMD on its acquisition of Laboratoires Biové. VMD is



a manufacturer of veterinary medicines and leads the market in this field in Belgium. With its acquisition of Laboratoires Biové, a manufacturer of generic veterinary medicines based in the North of France, VMD has taken a major step forward in its development.

#### **KBC Private Equity closes transaction with Hungarian printing company Grafika Press**

24/05/2007: KBC Private Equity acquired a minority shareholding in Grafika Press, a Hungarian printing company, after receiving the approval of the Competition Office. In addition, KBC Private Equity provided Grafika with a mezzanine facility to finance the acquisition of assets from Szikra, another printing company. These transactions represent the first deal that KBC Private Equity has closed in Hungary.

#### **Di Legno Interiors acquired by its management and KBC Private Equity**

22/10/2007: KBC Private Equity together with the company's current shareholder and Managing Director, Koen Vanbrabant and Commercial Director, Ben Soers are investing in Di Legno Interiors, a pioneer in the ageing of parquet flooring based in Genk, Belgium.

#### **KBC Private Equity acquires Polish scooter distributor ZIPP**

24/10/2007: KBC Private Equity has acquired ZIPP from Kross. ZIPP is one of the leading Polish scooter distributors. This transaction represents the first deal that KBC Private Equity has closed in Poland. Financial details of the transaction will not be disclosed.

***For more information, please contact Mr. Philippe de Vicq: +32/2/429.22.49***

### **PARTNERS@VENTURE REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

Partners@Venture heeft haar volledige participatie in **Eurogentec** - een biotechnologisch productielaboratorium - verkocht aan Maignon Technologies, een Franse investeringsmaatschappij.

Partners@Venture heeft haar volledige participatie in **MethaPharma**, een bedrijf gespecialiseerd in de ontwikkeling en distributie van voedingssupplementen, verkocht aan Vemedia Pharma. De (ex)

referentie-aandeelhouders van Methapharma (waaronder Partners@Venture) zullen bij deze gelegenheid ook een kapitaalverhoging van Vemedia Pharma onderschrijven van 5 miljoen euro.

***Voor meer informatie contacteert u: Mr. Piet Van Waes: +32/498/90.38.03***

**PE GROUP REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**PE Group verwerft 50% belang in AED Rent – de samenwerking is gericht op verdere internationale expansie**

24/10/2007. AED Rent, gespecialiseerd in verhuur van audio en visueel materiaal voor de professionele gebruiker, wenst haar marktpositie en netwerk verder internationaal uit te bouwen. Om deze groei mee te ondersteunen en te

begeleiden heeft AED Rent besloten om samen te werken met PE Group, een private equity investeringsvennootschap, die een deelneming van 50 % verwerft. In een volgende fase is een kapitaalverhoging van 5 mio eur door de aandeelhouders voorzien.

**Voor meer informatie contacteert u de heer Stefan Yee: +32/497/37.80.65.**

**QAT INVESTMENTS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Derde kapitaalronde QAT II Investments groot succes**

Op 31 augustus jl. werd de derde kapitaalronde van QAT II Investments afgesloten. Deze kapitaalronde werd op 1 juli opengesteld om een derde schijf van € 5 Mio op te halen, nu de middelen van de eerste twee rondes geïnvesteerd of gereserveerd zijn. Deze derde ronde werd een groot succes. Er werd ingetekend op niet minder dan €11,5 Mio, wat betekent dat deze ronde meer dan tweemaal overingetekend werd. Dit brengt de totale toegewezen financiering voor QAT II Investments 15 maanden na de oprichting op €22 Mio.

**QAT-ARKiv investeert 1.000.000 euro in Meucci Solutions N.V.**

Op 6 november jl. investeerde QAT-ARKiv 1.000.000 euro in Meucci Solutions, een snelgroeiend Gents bedrijf dat een uniek dienstenaanbod levert aan telecomoperatoren op het gebied van roaming, kwaliteitsmeting, en fraudedetectie. Deze investering maakt deel uit van een kapitaalsverhoging van in totaal 2.000.000 euro. Naast QAT-ARKiv trad ook Leeward Ventures Sicar SA, een Luxemburgse investeringsmaatschappij, toe tot het kapitaal van Meucci Solutions.

**Voor meer informatie contacteert u Mr. Yves Van Sante: +352/26/10.25.91**

**QUEST MANAGEMENT REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Quest for Growth announced that it has committed to invest € 500,000 into MAPPER Lithography, a private Dutch semiconductor equipment company active in maskless lithography.**

30/05/2007: MAPPER Lithography is a spin-off company of the University of Delft that was set up in 2000 and received first

financing in 2001. The company focuses on the development and manufacturing of a new and highly competitive maskless lithography machine for advanced chip manufacturing; combining massively-parallel electron-beam writing with high speed optical data transport used in the telecommunication industry.

Quest for Growth has committed to invest € 500,000; of which € 375,000 already has been invested today and the remainder is due upon milestones being reached. The investment is in the form of a convertible loan note. Quest for Growth joins a number of reputable investors including Capital-C Ventures, KT Venture Group (venture capital arm of KLA Tencor), KBC Private Equity and individual investors with excellent sector experience.

**Quest for Growth announces the investment of €2 million into Gemidis, a private LCOS display company.**

01/06/2007: Quest for Growth invested €2 million out of a €6 million round, alongside existing investors including GIMV, Fortis Private Equity, Baekeland Fonds and Alfineon. Gemidis is a spin-off company from Ghent University (Belgium) and IMEC (Belgium) and was officially founded in August 2004 with GIMV as a lead investor in its previous financings. GIMV and GIMV Arkiv also added almost € 2 million in the current round.

**Quest for Growth announces it has successfully exited its participation in the private French company Welcome Real-Time.**

01/07/2007: Quest for Growth invested €485,000 in Welcome Real-Time in May 2005 through a secondary transaction and today has made a 3 times cash return on this investment.

**Quest for Growth invests a total of €2,000,000 into Kiadis Pharma NV, a Dutch Canadian Oncology company**

In June 2007 QUEST FOR GROWTH completed an investment of € 2 Million as part of a total funding of €15 million in Kiadis Pharma NV, a Dutch-Canadian Oncology.

Quest for Growth joins founding investor LSP as lead investor. Alta Partners and MedSciences Capital have also signed up to invest in Kiadis Pharma. Existing investors Esprit Capital Partners LLP and N.V. NOM – Investment and Development Agency for the Northern Netherlands, have decided to extend their investment in the company.

**Quest for Growth invests a total of £1,500,000 in Syntaxin Ltd, a UK drug development company**

In October 2007 Quest for Growth completed an investment of £ 1.5 million as part of a total funding of £16 million in Syntaxin, a UK based drug Development Company.

Quest for Growth joins founding investor Abingworth and Life Science Partners, SR-One (GSK) and Johnson & Johnson Development Company.

**For more information, please contact Mr. René Avonts: +32/16/28.41.28**

**SOFINIM REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**AvH acquires a 20%-stake in Manuchar**

19/06/2007: Ackermans & van Haaren (acting through its 74% subsidiary Sofinim) has reached an agreement with the family Patrick Maas and the management of Manuchar, led by Mr Philippe Huybrechs, for the acquisition of a 20%-stake in

Manuchar. Sofinim has also an option to increase its participation to 30%.

Manuchar, located in Antwerp, is a trader, distributor and a logistics player mainly active in chemicals, steel and wood. Over the past years Manuchar recorded a strong growth.



## **AvH and Fortis PE reach an agreement in principle on the sale of Corn Van Loocke to Umicore**

23/08/2007: Ackermans & van Haaren ('AvH'), through its affiliate Sofinim, Fortis Private Equity ('FPE') and the other shareholders of Corn Van Loocke ('CVL' or the 'Company') have recently come to an agreement in principal to sell CVL to Umicore. AvH and FPE are both shareholder of the Company since 1999 (when they realised a management buy-out together with the management) and own at this stage respectively 45% and 25% of the outstanding shares of CVL.

The Company has developed substantially over the last few years. This evolution has been possible thanks to an extensive investment program and a strongly committed management team. CVL's sales level has grown from EUR 14m to EUR 24 m between 1999 and 2006. Furthermore, the personnel base increased from 39 to 64 persons since 1999.

The current shareholders are convinced that through CVL's integration into the Umicore group, CVL will be in a position to

take advantage of many more growth opportunities.

## **The start of Euro Media Group**

05/10/2007: The merger of the UBF Media Group (Hilversum, Netherlands) and EuroMedia Télévision (Paris, France), which was announced in February 2007, has been completed with the creation of the new "Euro Media Group".

EMG will be one of the largest Television and Film service providers in Europe, offering Studios, Post Production and Outside Broadcast Facilities.

Sofinim became a 15.7% shareholder of UBF in 2001. At that time, the company realised a turnover of € 33 mio and was only active in The Netherlands. Since 2001, Sofinim has stimulated the company's management to play an active role in the consolidation of the sector and has supported at several occasions the company's development.

***For more information, please contact Mr. Matthias De Raeymaeker or Mr. Koen Janssen: +32/3/897.92.30***

## **SOPARTEC REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

### **Successful capital increase; nearly €1 million raised to target outdoor crops**

**15/10/2007** **Viridaxis**, a biotechnology company involved in the development, production and marketing of natural enemies for aphid control, announces an increase of capital of nearly €1M€. The participants in this second investor round are the Vives fund, **Viridaxis'** majority shareholder and six new investors, namely S.R.I.W. and five Business Angels in the BAMS network. At its formation in July 2004 this spin-off of Louvain Catholic

University started up with capital close to half a million euros.

This increase in capital will enable the company to industrialise insect production, expand its production capacity and develop new products for aphid control in outdoor crops, notably strawberries and apples.

***For more information, please contact Mr. Philippe Durieux: +32/10/39.00.21.***

**STONEFUND REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Stonefund Cleantech invests in Recovco, a UK-based aluminium recycling technology company.**

Early May this year Stonefund Cleantech participated successfully in a £4.2 million (€6.3 million) equity round. This was led by existing investor WHEB Ventures and included Impax Group, StoneFund and management.

The new equity round was followed by the acquisition of the assets and operations of Alcan's Affimet aluminum recycling plant in Compiègne, France. The acquired plant is

France's largest aluminium recycling company with an initial target output of over 54,000 tonnes per year.

The acquisition provides an outstanding platform for Recovco to pursue an ambitious international expansion plan. Recovco intends to build a major international Aluminium recycling group through further acquisitions and joint ventures.

***For more information, please contact Mr. Anthony Theys: +32/476/55.89.08***

**SYDES REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

**Masda versterkt de audiovisuele poot van Corelio**

28/06/2007: Mediagroep Corelio neemt via Sydes - haar private equity poot - een participatie van 20% in Masda, met een optie om deze participatie te verhogen naar 33%. Masda, vandaag de holdingmaatschappij van Sonicville Sound and Music nv en Sonicville Dubbing nv, is het grootste audio postproductiehuis van België met een grote infrastructuur in een uniek gebouw, een oude melkfabriek van 4800m<sup>2</sup> in Koekelberg.

De nieuwe groep Sonicville wordt synoniem voor een One Stop Solution voor muziek, geluidsproductie, dubbing en mixage voor commercials, langspeelfilm, animatie en documentaires.

De intrede van Sydes in Masda nv past in de strategie van Corelio om te investeren in multimediale bedrijven die inspelen op behoeften van de audiovisuele sector. De transactie werd begeleid door

Sydes, de private equity maatschappij van Corelio leidde de onderhandelingen tussen de partijen.

**Sydesdochter Caviar heeft zopas haar participatie in Atomik Pictures verhoogd tot 49,50%.**

01/06/2007: Twee jaar geleden verwierf ze al een belang van 33%. Deze verhoging kadert in de internationale expansie van Caviar. Op deze manier wil het bedrijf de komende jaren blijven groeien, ook buiten België, waar het al marktleider is.

Net als bij de eerste participatie heeft Sydes de gesprekken begeleid en geholpen de overeenkomsten te finaliseren.

**Corelio verhoogt participatie in Gezondheid nv**

10/09/2007: Corelio heeft via investeringsvennootschap Sydes zijn belang in Gezondheid nv verhoogd van 45% naar 72%. Gezondheid nv is de vennootschap achter de populair medische website [www.gezondheid.be](http://www.gezondheid.be), de grootste Belgische site in zijn genre.

Dankzij de verhoging van de participatie kunnen de inhoud, lay-out, interactiviteit en technische mogelijkheden van de website verder worden uitgebouwd. Daartoe zullen verschillende Corelio-



bedrijven en de overige aandeelhouders Paul Geerts, Lieven Vandoorne en Jan Van de Sijpe intensiever samenwerken en managementondersteuning krijgen vanuit Sydes.

### **Versterking bij Sydes**

Op 5 maart is **Jan Vanhoyweghen** bij Sydes gestart als investment advisor. Hij gaat nieuwe investeringsopportunities zoeken en deze begeleiden tot participaties van Sydes of Arkafund. Jan Vanhoyweghen heeft actieve ervaring met het managen van KMO's en is goed vertrouwd met risicokapitaal via zijn werkverleden bij de Gewestelijke Investeringsmaatschappij voor Brussel (GIMB).

Sinds juni is **Joris De Lannoy** gestart als investment advisor. Hij is ook de manager

van Gezondheid nv. Deze economist heeft ruim 15 jaar ervaring in de ICT-sector, in uiteenlopende functies in sales en business development.

Op 7 september startte **Katya Degrieck** als business development consultant. Ze is handelsingenieur en heeft meer dan 15 jaar ervaring in consulting- en marketingfuncties. Katya was de laatste 4 jaar directeur en gedelegeerd bestuurder van ECI nv (Bertelsmann). Ze was er verantwoordelijk voor de omzet en winst in Vlaanderen van de boeken- en muziekclubs, off- en online.

Ze gaan alle drie op zoek naar nieuwe investeringsopportunities en begeleiden ze tot participaties van Sydes of Arkafund.

*For more information, please contact Mr. Jean-Christophe Massart: +32/2/467.49.12*

## **WATERLAND PRIVATE EQUITY REPORTED THE FOLLOWING NEWS TO US:**

### **Waterland and Prime Technology Ventures sell GlobalCollect to General Atlantic**

Hoofddorp, 23/07/2007: Waterland Private Equity Investments and Prime Technology Ventures announced today that they sold their stake in Global Collect, the world's leading international e-payment service provider, to General Atlantic, a US private equity firm.

### **Optisport accelerates growth by acquiring Sportijn**

04/10/2007 - Optisport Leisure Group B.V. (Optisport), a leading company managing privatised municipal swimming pools, leisure and sports facilities in The Netherlands today announced that it acquired all shares of Sportijn Group B.V. (Sportijn). The acquisition, which a.o. aims at improving Optisport's national coverage, is part of the buy & build strategy defined

by Waterland Private Equity Investments and Optisport's management to support the Optisport's accelerated growth path.

In April 2006, Waterland Private Equity Investments (Waterland) acquired a 50% stake in Optisport. Together with Optisport's management, Waterland then defined a buy & build strategy to accelerate Optisport's growth path through a combination of autonomous growth and acquisitions.

### **Senior Living Group becomes largest Belgian private nursing home group through acquisition of Psychogeriatrisch Centrum**

25/10/2007 – Senior Living Group (SLG), the Belgian nursing home group set up by Waterland Private Equity Investments (Waterland), announced today that it acquired Psychogeriatrisch Centrum (PGC). This acquisition adds four nursing homes to the SLG portfolio, making SLG



the market leader in the private segment of the Belgian nursing home sector, with seventeen facilities and an authorised capacity of 2600 beds.

In 2004, the private equity investment firm Waterland set up Senior Living Group to acquire a leading position in the Belgian market for nursing homes.

**Waterland provides growth capital for the merger of medical laboratory group AML-RIATOL and Labo Van Waes**

06/11/2007 – AML-RIATOL and Medisch Labo D. Van Waes are joining forces to

become one of the leading medical laboratory groups in Belgium. Waterland Private Equity Investments is to participate in the group's capital to support further growth.

To continue the growth strategy into the future, the group decided to boost its capital structure and attracted Waterland as financial partner. Waterland will provide extra financing and support management where necessary in the continuous growth of the company.

***For more information, please contact Mr. Frank Vlayen: +32/3/218.21.36***