



Press release

Paris, January 8th, 2009

**Alexandre Vannelle and Olivier Binet are appointed Associate Directors;
Edouard Guigou is appointed Associate at Astorg Partners**

Astorg Partners, the independent French private equity firm specialising in midcap LBOs, is pleased to announce the appointments of Alexandre Vannelle and Olivier Binet as Associate Directors, and the appointment of Edouard Guigou as Associate, as of January 1st, 2009.

Alexandre Vannelle joined Astorg in 2005 and has since then successfully contributed to the completion of several investments including Webhelp (call-centers) and SCT (telecom operator). He is currently a board member of these two companies.

Previously, Alexandre Vannelle worked for 4 years on mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions at JPMorgan.

Alexandre Vannelle, 31, holds an MBA from the ESCP-EAP Business School, where he was awarded the meritorious pupil scholarship by the *Fondation de France*.

Olivier Binet joined Astorg in 2005 and has since then successfully contributed to the completion of several investments including Ethypharm (pharmaceutical industry) and Photonis (defense industry). He currently serves the Board of these two companies.

Previously, Olivier Binet spent 2 years in the Private Equity division of Lehman Brothers in London, where he executed and monitored LBO mid-market investments throughout Europe.

Olivier Binet, 29, graduated in 2003 from HEC Business School, where he majored in Entrepreneurship.

Edouard Guigou joined Astorg in 2007 and has since then contributed to the completion of the OGF (funeral services) investment. He currently holds an observer seat at the Board of this company.

Previously, Edouard Guigou spent one year at Astorg Partners as an intern, pursuant to a first work experience at the French Mission Economique in London.

Edouard Guigou, 28, graduated in 2003 from the IEP de Paris and in 2007 from the ESCP-EAP graduate school of management

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Photo available on request

About Astorg Partners

Astorg Partners is an independent fund management company, specializing in French mid-market buyouts with over €1 billion under management. Astorg Partners seeks to partner with successful and entrepreneurial management teams, to acquire businesses - very often family-owned - with attractive growth prospects, which Astorg will support through the provision of experienced governance and adequate capital. Astorg enjoys a distinct entrepreneurial culture, a lean and local decision-making body enhancing its reactivity, and has a true commitment to its partnering management teams.

Although clearly a multi-sector investor, Astorg Partners has developed solid industry expertise in distribution (Sephora, Marc Orian, Un Jour Ailleurs, Picard Surgelés, Frans Bonhomme), healthcare (Sebia, Pasteur-Cerba, Ethypharm), and professional services (Lowendal Group, RLD, CIS, Geoservices, Staci, Webhelp,).

Astorg Partners has closed 57 transactions over the last 17 years, yielding an annual return (IRR) of over 30% on realized investments.

More information on Astorg Partners is available at: www.astorg-partners.com

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