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DECEMBER 2018

Access Capital Partners reorganises its shareholding to foster growth and welcomes Alantra as a new strategic partner alongside OP Financial Group

Access Capital Partners (“Access”) announces that OP Financial Group and Dominique Peninon its Chairman will reduce their shareholding in the company while Alantra, a global investment banking and asset management firm focused on the mid-market segment, will become a new strategic shareholder. It is intended that OP Financial Group will remain as a shareholder for another three years before selling the rest of its shares to Alantra.

Agnès Nahum and Philippe Poggioli as Managing Partners together with the enlarged group of Partners will increase their shareholding in the firm maintaining complete independence as they will collectively have a controlling majority of the company. Several team members who became Partners in the recent past will become shareholders on this occasion. Dominique Peninon will retain a significant stake in the company and remain Chairman of the Group.

The partnership between Access and Alantra, which contributes worldwide presence and an ambitious agenda for its own asset management business, will lever significant synergies in terms of fundraising and the launching of new products. Alantra will act as a strategic partner for the coming years and will help Access in accomplishing its growth plans.

With €8.8 billion of cumulated assets raised, Access has established a strong market position in European Private Equity, Infrastructure and Private Debt investments through primary and secondary funds of funds, direct & co-investment funds and customized client solutions. The company intends to:

- reinforce its market leading position on the European Small Cap Buy-out market where it is typically the largest investor in most of the funds it commits to and a significant co-investor in direct deals;
- accelerate its growth in European Infrastructure investments where it offers differentiated solutions to investors;
- broaden its scope of investments in the Private Debt space;
- address new geographies for fundraising purposes.

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The new capital structure will provide for a strong alignment of interest among shareholders to foster growth and quality of service to clients.

The admission of Alantra as a new shareholder of Access Capital Partners is conditional upon, and will not occur until the parties have obtained all necessary approvals from their regulators in France, Guernsey, the United Kingdom, Finland and elsewhere.

Katja Keitaanniemi, President and CEO of OP Corporate Bank, commented:

“OP (previously Pohjola Bank plc) took over from CapMan as a key strategic shareholder for Access back in 2010. As such, we have supported the diversification of Access into Infrastructure and Private Debt investments through our commitment and the support of our Finnish clients. We are delighted with the synergies that have been created and hope to continue our commercial partnership beyond the next three years.”

Santiago Eguidazu, Chairman of Alantra, commented:

“We are excited to partner with Access, a firm that we have known for a long time and who shares our values and growth ambitions. We believe Access and its strong leadership team are the right partners to further scale our existing Asset Management activity and we are looking forward to developing significant synergies between both firms.”

Agnès Nahum and Philippe Poggioli, Managing Partners of Access, commented:

“This evolution in our shareholding structure sets the scene for a new impulse at Access as we smoothly transition over three years between two strategic partners. It gives us the opportunity to reaffirm our independence while so many of our competitors have recently been acquired and it broadens the share ownership among a wider group of Partners. Access remains a client-focused specialist investment manager with a unique DNA, now able to tackle new growth opportunities.”

Dominique Peninon, Chairman of Access, commented:

“This represents a natural evolution, 20 years after we launched Access. We always operated as a true partnership and I am pleased to see the company maintaining its independence and sticking to its core values in a world characterized by consolidation and race for size. Access’ DNA remains intact.”

ABOUT ACCESS CAPITAL PARTNERS

Established in December 1998, Access Capital Partners is an independent Private Assets manager, majority owned by its management. With offices in six European countries and aggregate investor commitments of €8.8 billion, Access’ integrated expertise offers exposure to Smaller Buy-outs, Infrastructure, and Private Debt through funds of funds, direct & co-investment funds and customized client solutions. The team is fully committed to integrating Environmental, Social and Governance best practices into its investment strategies, acknowledging that a responsible investment approach partially mitigates investment risk and enhances long term returns.

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ABOUT OP FINANCIAL GROUP

OP Financial Group is Finland's largest financial services group whose mission is to create sustainable prosperity, security and wellbeing for its owner-customers and in its operating region by means of its strong capital base and efficiency. OP Financial Group consists of 156 member cooperative banks, its central cooperative OP Cooperative, and the latter's subsidiaries and affiliates. The Group has a staff of 12,000 and 1.9 million owner-customers.

ABOUT ALANTRA

Alantra is a global investment banking and asset management firm focused on the mid-market with offices across Europe, the US, Asia and Latin America. Alantra's Asset Management division has €4.4 billion of assets under management (AuM) in Private Equity, Active Funds, Private Debt, Real Estate and Wealth Management. Its Investment Banking division employs over 330 professionals, providing independent advice on M&A, debt advisory, financial restructuring, credit portfolio and capital markets transactions. Alantra is a publicly-traded partnership.

>> FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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