



For immediate release

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PRESS RELEASE

Krokus Private Equity announces first close for Nova Polonia Natexis II Private Equity Fund

*Successful launch for Krokus's new fund with a first close
at €52 million against a fund target of €75 million*

Warsaw, Poland – Krokus Private Equity today announced the first close of its latest fund, **Nova Polonia Natexis II Private Equity Fund** at €52 million against a target of €75 million. Commitments have been made by Natexis Private Equity, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, InvestKredit and one other investor.

The Krokus team is among the most experienced in the Polish mid market. They have worked together for eleven years and have, to date, been responsible for advising three private equity funds, making a total of 24 new investments and committing €80 million of advised funds. Together, they have completed 52¹ exits and have sat on the Boards of over 70 companies. The team, who are all Polish nationals, have an exceptionally strong regional deal origination network throughout Poland which ensures that the new Fund will have access to attractive investment opportunities in the regions of Poland that are less accessible to Warsaw based competitors.

The Fund will target expansion and buy-out opportunities in the Polish mid market. It will invest in companies enjoying strong underlying growth or that it considers to be dynamic platforms from which to drive consolidation in a particular market segment. In all cases the Fund will only invest in companies with strong management teams and using structures that are designed to protect the Fund's investment. Targeted sectors include selected manufacturing, services (including financial services), distribution, transportation and construction materials together with companies that will indirectly benefit from the large inflows of EU structural funds into Poland that are anticipated over the next decade.

Acanthus Advisers is acting as exclusive financial advisor and placement agent for the Fund.

Witold Radwanski, Chief Executive of Krokus said:

"We are pleased to have achieved a first close so early in the fund raising process. Investors have been attracted to the Polish market by the large number of dynamic mid market companies operating throughout the country and by the depth and quality of the their management teams.

We will be sticking to the investment strategy that the Krokus team has pursued for the past eleven years which has delivered consistent returns and we believe will continue to deliver superior returns to our investors.

At a time when a number of CEE regional managers have successfully raised new funds it is good to see such strong interest in a specialist country fund focused solely on the Polish mid market. We believe that this shows how quickly the CEE private equity market is maturing with clear demand from investors emerging for both regional and country based funds as already happens in Western Europe. "

¹The imbalance between new investments and exits is due to the fact that certain investments were inherited by the Partners when they assumed the management contract for the underlying portfolios and thus did not make the initial investment decision themselves.

About Krokus Private Equity

www.krokuspe.pl/en/

Krokus was set up by its Partners, Witold Radwański, Marzena Tomecka, Robert Bożyk and Piotr Oskroba together with Natexis Private Equity following the Partners' buy-out from their former parent AIB. The team has been working together in private equity in Poland for over eleven years and has been responsible for managing three Polish private equity funds: NIF Magna Polonia, Nova Polonia and Prospect Poland. As such, the team is one of the most experienced private equity players in Poland.

During this period the team has made a total of 24 new investments in the Polish mid market and have committed a total of €80 million of advised funds. In addition, the Partners have completed 52 exits, sat on the Boards of over 70 companies and advised portfolio companies on corporate governance, strategy and acquisitions.

Krokus applies a proactive investment strategy by which they seek to add value to their investments by active involvement with management teams, through the imposition of rigorous corporate governance standards, full involvement in strategic planning and ultimately by ensuring a timely exit from which all parties benefit.

About Natexis Private Equity ("NPE")

www.natexis-pe.com

NPE is the leading private equity partner for French SME's, a highly reputed European player and is gaining visibility in the high growth markets of northern Asia and South America. Through 16 sponsored teams, 163 professionals, c.700 portfolio companies, 11 offices and with c. €2.4 billion committed from more than 45 international investors, NPE has developed a unique expertise in backing local and experienced teams with in-depth knowledge of their domestic markets. NPE is a cornerstone investor in the Fund.

About Acanthus

www.acanthusadvisers.com

Acanthus is an independent private equity advisory firm providing fund placement and corporate finance advisory services. Established in 1998, Acanthus has built a highly experienced team of private equity specialists who are genuinely European both in focus and background with complementary skill bases ranging from corporate finance, asset management, capital markets, management consulting and accounting.

Each of Acanthus's managing partners has over 15 years' private equity experience. Together they have been involved in the execution of transactions with an aggregate value in excess of €10 billion. In the last 12 months, Acanthus's clients have raised funds in excess of €1 billion.

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