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Press release

Crédit Agricole Private Equity offers individual investors access to the Israeli venture capital market

Backed by a very strong R&D segment, Israel is a world leader in technological innovation and is a powerful incubator of high-tech companies. With more than \$1.8 billion in investment in 2007, the Israeli venture capital market is the second largest in the world.

In order to tap into these very favourable conditions, Crédit Agricole Private Equity has launched Crédit Agricole Israël Venture Selection 1, a fund dedicated to investment in Israeli venture capital funds. The fund is a Luxembourg registered SICAR, approved by the CSSF (*Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier*).

Sponsored by Crédit Agricole S.A. and Crédit Agricole Private Bank Suisse, the fund aims \$50 million. It is designed for high net worth individual clients, with a minimum investment of €250,000.

The investment strategy will seek to select the best venture capital funds in the Israeli market, with a diversification across IT sectors (software, communications, internet, semiconductors, etc.), life sciences and Cleantech. Crédit Agricole Private Equity will also invest directly in Israeli start-up companies alongside these local funds.

Three commitments have already been made for a total of \$13 million, in Evergreen (\$5 million), Giza (\$5 million) and Israel Cleantech (\$3 million), three of the most promising and best-known funds in the market. Several other investments will be completed by the end of the year.

Crédit Agricole Private Equity is the second largest French private equity investor in Europe. It has €375 million under management in the form of holdings in young companies with strong growth potential in IT and life sciences.

Contacts

Antoine Colboc, Head of Venture Capital team
Bernard Nabet, Investment Director, Venture Capital team

Press contact

Martine Sessin-Caracci - martine.sessincaracci@ca-privateequity.fr - + 33 (1) 43 23 90 88

About Crédit Agricole Private Equity

Crédit Agricole Private Equity, an AMF-authorized investment management company and wholly-owned subsidiary of Crédit Agricole S.A., specialises 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 (LBO & Expansion, Venture Capital, Mezzanine, Renewable Energy, PPP Infrastructure, Liquidity Solution and special situations, Co-Investment) and manages a total of €2.2 billion in various types of private equity vehicle (FCPR, SICAR, FCPI and SCR). Crédit Agricole Private Equity supports entrepreneurs in their expansion plans.

www.ca-privateequity.com