

Four Institutional Investors join the Capricorn Cleantech Fund

Early February, Capricorn Venture Partners welcomed four additional investors to its latest Capricorn Cleantech Fund, increasing the fund's capital with over €30 million. In addition to the European Investment Fund, the fund's investor base was also strengthened by institutional investors Dexia Bank, Ethias and Quest for Growth. Capricorn aims to close fundraising for its Cleantech Fund by the end of the first quarter of 2008 with a target fund size between €80 and 100 million.

In addition, Capricorn announced its third portfolio investment in Neosens, a French based cleantech company specialized in microelectronics sensor technology to monitor fouling and dissolved oxygen for industrial processes. Capricorn joined lead investor Sofinnova Partners, GALIA Gestion and original investors ICSO Private Equity and IRDI in a €2.5 million capital round for Neosens. For more information please visit www.neo-sens.com.

Capricorn Venture Partners is a pan-European manager of venture capital funds seeking to invest in technology-based growth companies. The Cleantech Fund is Capricorn's third consecutive venture capital fund. The fund invests in European growth companies developing innovative breakthrough technologies in the field of e.g. renewable energy and energy efficiency, water purification and re-use, bio-based material conversion and biorefinery platforms, clean air, climate change, green chemistry and advanced materials, materials recovery and recycling. More information can be found on www.capricorn.be.

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About European Investment Fund

EIF operates as a European Fund-of-Funds, the biggest of its kind in the venture segment, managing mandates from various public and private sector resources. EIF is the European Union body specialised in SME financing on market terms through equity fund investments and as a guarantee provider to intermediaries in SME financing. In this role, the European Investment Fund fosters EU objectives in support of innovation, research and development, entrepreneurship, growth, and employment.

Its investment in the Capricorn Cleantech Fund was made possible through the "Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme" of the European Union.



About Dexia Bank

Dexia, a European banking group, world leader in Public & Project Finance

Dexia Bank is a key operating bank of the Dexia Group (www.dexia.com), which was born in 1996 from the alliance of two major players in local public finance in Europe: Crédit local de France and Crédit Communal de Belgique. With a market capitalisation of 24.8 billion euros as of 30 Sept. 2007, Dexia ranks among the twenty largest financial institutions in the eurozone. It currently employs some 33,000 staff and has operations in about thirty countries. Dexia enjoys one of the best credit ratings in the banking sector. Dexia's development strategy is based on the Group's two pillars: Universal Banking in Europe (Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Turkey), and Public/Project Finance worldwide.

About Ethias

Since its creation in 1919 Ethias - Belgian group of Mutual Insurance Associations – has been standing as a key player in the sector of social economy. The company's mission statement is strongly animated by socially responsible core values such as ethics, humanism, involvement and proximity. Third Belgian insurer, Ethias offers a complete range of life and non-life products to more than a million policyholders. Since its creation, Ethias has been the natural insurer of Public Authorities. Ethias also proposes bank products through its subsidiary, Ethias Bank.

About Quest for Growth

The Privak "QUEST FOR GROWTH" is a Pan-European investment company that invests in European technology-based growth companies in a broad range of industrial sectors such as information technology, semiconductors, telecommunications, software, electronics, biotechnology, medical devices, health-care and new materials. QUEST FOR GROWTH invests in quoted and unquoted companies.

QUEST FOR GROWTH is Belgium's first Privak and is an investment company traded on the continuous market of Euronext Brussels. The Belgian Government created the legal and fiscal framework for the Privak as a tax transparent investment vehicle specially tailored to the needs of private equity.

The Privak "QUEST FOR GROWTH" is managed by Quest Management NV.

