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The Crédit Agricole Group allocates a further €300 million to private equity for small, medium and intermediate-sized firms

The Crédit Agricole Group, the number one provider of financing to the French economy with a 25% market share, is expanding its private equity operations to support the small, medium and intermediatesized firms it serves in their local areas.

To this end, the regional banks of Crédit Agricole and Crédit Agricole S.A. have just committed €300 million to the Crédit Agricole Régions Développement (CARD) fund.

The aim of this fund is to provide long-term support to small, medium and intermediate-sized clients to help them grow, particularly through a greater number of expansion and buy-out transactions, by taking a minority stake.

CARD may invest between €1 million and €35 million in each minority stake, which may rise to €50 million in a co-investment with one of the Regional Private Equity Companies (Sociétés de Capital Investissement en Région or SCIRs) of Crédit Agricole's regional banks, a significant amount for a minority investment in an intermediatesized firm.

The CARD fund will strengthen the Group's private equity operations

The Crédit Agricole Group is a leading private equity player in France, with a total portfolio of more than €3.5 billion under direct management distributed between its three investor profiles (regional, with the SCIRs, national, for private equity with IDIA Capital Investissement and national, for third-party funds with AMUNDI PEF).

In total, with its subsidiaries Amundi (funds of funds) and CA Assurances, more than €15 billion is invested in firms and the French economy.

Crédit Agricole Régions Développement (CARD) is a diversified investment structure that operates in all sectors except for agri/agro business.

CARD is managed by IDIA Capital Investissement, a Crédit Agricole Group management company.

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About the Crédit Agricole Group

- _ Crédit Agricole Group is the leading financial partner of the French economy and one of the foremost European banks. The Group is not only the leading retail bank in Europe, but also the top European asset manager, the no. 1 banking and insurance group in Europe, and the no. 2 issuer of green loans in the world.
- _ With its cooperative and mutual banking roots, 138,000 employees and 31,000 directors of local and regional banks, the Crédit Agricole Group is a valuable and responsible bank that serves 52 million customers worldwide, 9.3 million cooperative shareholders and almost 1 million individual shareholders. Thanks to its universal banking model combining close relationships between its retail banks and the specialist expertise of its different business divisions the Crédit Agricole Group helps its customers achieve their financial objectives in France and around the world: everyday banking, home and consumer loans, savings, insurance, asset management, real estate, leasing, factoring, corporate and investment banking, and issuer and investor solutions.
- _ Crédit Agricole's corporate social responsibility policy is central to its identity as a valuable and loyal banking partner for life. CSR is integral to the Group's offering and permeates every aspect of its businesses. Furthermore, it is a key factor in its overall performance and a powerful innovation driver. The Crédit Agricole Group comprises 39 regional banks and Crédit Agricole S.A., the Group's listed entity which is 56.6%-owned by the regional banks via a wholly-owned holding company, SAS La Boétie.

About IDIA Capital Investissement

IDIA Capital Investissement is the private equity arm of Crédit Agricole S.A. It takes minority stakes in small, medium and intermediate-sized firms in all sectors of the economy, leveraging established expertise in the agri-food and wine sectors.

IDIA Capital Investissement also provides management of the Crédit Agricole Group's real estate, forestry and wine entities and monitoring of Crédit Agricole S.A.'s investments in specific funds.

IDIA Capital Investissement (through its vehicles CARD, CA Grands Crus, Grands Crus Investissements, IDIA Participations and SOFIPAR, etc.) manages funds totalling €1.4 billion.

The target investment is between €1 million and €50 million.

IDIA is a portfolio management company approved by the AMF under number GP-15000010