

Press release

Paris, September 20th, 2016

Damien Lestang joins BlackFin Capital Partners as Managing Director.

Damien, aged 38, joins the BlackFin buyout team as a Managing Director. He previously spent 11 years at Advent International, one of the largest global Private Equity platform, where he was Director and has participated to many mid- to large-cap transactions in France and in Europe, including Oberthur Technologies, a world leader in smartcard manufacturing and mobile payment solutions, Nocibé, merged with German firm Douglas to form a European leader in perfume and Cosmetics retailing, and Sportfive, Europe's leading marketing sports right agency. Prior to that Damien was at BNP Paribas' Leverage Finance team in Germany and at Idinvest Partners, a generalist venture capital firm. Damien graduated from the HEC business school.

Laurent Bouyoux, Managing Partner of BlackFin Capital Partners: "We are delighted to have Damien onboard. His experience and track-record will be highly valuable to our firm as we successfully position it to be the leading financial services investor in Europe. A profound reshaping of the financial industry, changes in regulations, an unprecedented cycle of low interest rates and new technologies are making a deep impact on the financial services sector and create unique investment opportunities that we are systematically exploring."

Damien Lestang: "I am thrilled to join BlackFin to further expand their buyout team and set-up after the successful raise of BlackFin's second fund in January 2016. The firm has built a unique investment franchise combining a deep industry knowledge and an entrepreneurial mindset."

About BlackFin Capital Partners

The firm's strategy focuses on asset-light (as opposed to balance-sheet intensive) businesses in the financial services sector, across continental Europe. Businesses of interest to BlackFin include asset-management, institutional and retail brokerage, distribution of insurance and banking products, both digital and through traditional channels, payments, processing, debt management and collection, fund administration, business process outsourcing and financial technology.

BlackFin operates as an active and influential investor, supporting successful management teams to take their businesses to the next level. The BlackFin team has substantially contributed to transform its portfolio companies by growing them organically, improving operating margins and also through an active buy and build strategy. Transactions have so far been completed in France, Germany, Italy, the Benelux and Switzerland.

BlackFin is currently managing two financial services growth / buyout funds: Fund I (€220m raised in 2011) and Fund II (€400m raised in 2016).

BlackFin Capital Partners is a fully independent firm, run by its four founding partners. Laurent Bouyoux, Eric May, Bruno Rostain and Paul Mizrahi have worked together as managers and entrepreneurs in the financial industry for decades. Altogether the team consists of 20 experienced professionals from different European nationalities.

More information about BlackFin Capital Partners on www.blackfincp.com

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