

Press release

Paris/Frankfurt, January 24th 2017

BlackFin opens an office in Frankfurt to boost its presence in the German financial services sector.

Responding to a growing market opportunity, BlackFin Capital Partners has opened an additional office in Frankfurt am Main (Germany).

Since its inception, BlackFin focuses on investment opportunities within the financial services sector across continental Europe. Initially fully based in Paris, the team is expanding geographically to support its pan-European investment strategy.

In 2013, BlackFin opened an office in Brussels to expand its coverage of the Benelux financial sector. This led to a significant increase in potential deal opportunities in all three of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg. As an example, BlackFin acquired for its Fund II the Luxemburg based operations of RBS (Royal Bank of Scotland) in a spin-off transaction that led to the formation of FundRock, a leading provider of services to the asset-management industry.

Opening an office in Germany in 2017 was the next logical step to enhance BlackFin's access to the German financial services market, and more broadly to the "DACH" region, in particular Switzerland. BlackFin's founders have deep experience in the German financial market as the founding shareholders of Commerz Financial Products, a subsidiary of Commerzbank AG, in 1994. In 2013, BlackFin completed a successful majority investment for its Fund I by acquiring Finanzen.de, the leading market-place in Europe for insurance and banking leads. BlackFin was able through its European expertise to make this originally domestic company into the European leader operating in Germany, Switzerland, France and the UK. BlackFin has further completed two acquisitions in Switzerland.

Mr Aloysius von Mitschke-Collande, with BlackFin since 2013, will be responsible for coordinating BlackFin's presence in Germany as Country Head for Germany.

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, the Benelux, Switzerland and Italy.

BlackFin is currently managing two financial services growth / buyout funds: Fund I (€220m raised in 2011) and Fund II (€400m raised in 2016). In addition, BlackFin has announced that it is launching a European FinTech focused Venture Fund, expecting to raise €120 million.

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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