

PRESS RELEASE

VTB CAPITAL, RUSSIAN LEADER INVESTMENT BANK, ENTERS THE SHARE CAPITAL OF EIDOS PARTNERS AND SIGNS AN EXCLUSIVE AGREEMENT FOR CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS

Milano, January 15th 2014 – Eidos Partners, independent company providing financial advisory services to Italian companies, private equity funds, financial institutions and public institutions, announces the entrance into its share capital of VTB Capital, the Investment Business of VTB Group, among the main Russian financial groups with a wide range of banking services and products, operating mainly in Russia and in the Russian Commonwealth countries (CIS). VTB's majority shareholder is the Russian Federation, through the Federal Agency for State Property Management, which holds 60.9% of VTB's shares.

The minority stake acquisition of about 9% is part of the exclusive strategic agreement signed by Eidos Partners and VTB Capital for cross border transactions between Italy and Russia. Since its foundation in 2008, VTB Capital took part in more than 460 ECM and DCM deals, which were instrumental in attracting more than USD 189bn worth of investments to Russia and CIS.

With this long-term partnership, Eidos Partners and VTB Capital want to develop a focused advisory business for companies and investors targeting Russia, the Russian Commonwealth area and Italy, key markets for Italian and for Russian players (corporates, institutional funds, government agencies) interested in cross border transactions. Eidos Partners and VTB can rely on strong expertise and competences together with a deep knowledge of markets and strong relationships with the companies of their countries. The two companies will share data and information with joint teams in order to cooperate in IPO processes, securities issuing and M&A transactions.

Riccardo Banchetti, Founder of Eidos Partners said: *“I'm very satisfied that VTB Capital, main investment bank in Russia, chose Eidos Partners as ally in promoting the development of business between our countries and favoring the entrance of Russian investors in the Italian market. This important partnership further enhances Eidos Partners' international franchise and represents a fundamental step in our international strategy. The alliance with VTB Capital will enable our clients to have a privileged access to one of the fastest growing areas in the world, supporting them in a process of an even more necessary international development”*.

Alexei Yakovitsky, Global CEO of VTB Capital, commented: *“The strategic alliance with Eidos Partners further strengthens VTB Capital's reach in Europe, enabling us to provide our clients with real insights into the many exciting opportunities coming out of Italy and to help Italian corporates looking at investing in Russia. I am convinced that by combining many of the smartest and best connected bankers in Italy and Russia we will be seen as the best advisers for dealing with cross-border Italy/Russia transactions. This cooperation agreement is another important milestone in extending VTB Capital's business internationally by providing global industry perspectives to our client base in Russia and abroad”*.

At the end of last year, VTB Capital acted as financial advisor to Enel in the US \$1.8 billion sale of its 40% stake in Arctic Russia to Rosneft. This transaction represented VTB Capital's first cross border advisory mandate for an Italian company and is the third largest deal in the Russian oil and gas sector announced in 2013.

Eidos Partners

Eidos Partners is an independent company providing financial advisory services to Italian companies, private equity funds, financial and public institutions. Eidos Partners is specialized in advising extraordinary and structured finance operations, such as mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, financial restructuring, debt advisory, bond issues and derivatives. Eidos Partners, with its offices in Milan and London, was founded in 2003 by a group of professionals coming from international leading investment banks and today can leverage on a team of 40 people who gained qualified professional experiences in investment banking, advisory and industry.

VTB Capital

VTB Capital, the Investment Business of VTB Group, is one of the three strategic business arms of VTB Group, along with the corporate and retail businesses. Since its foundation in 2008, VTB Capital has taken part in more than 460 ECM and DCM deals, which were instrumental in attracting more than USD 189bn worth of investments to Russia and CIS.

VTB Capital offers a full range of investment banking products and services to Russian and international clients, focusing on arranging operations in the debt, equity, global commodities markets, developing investment and asset management, advising clients on M&A and ECM deals in Russia and abroad. VTB Capital operates in Moscow, London, Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, Sofia, New York, Paris and Vienna, with headquarters in Moscow.

VTB Capital holds top positions in the debt and equity capital markets in Russia and CIS according to the league tables for 2011-2013 by Dealogic. In 2011 and 2012 VTB Capital research team was ranked #1 in Thomson Reuters Extel Survey and Institutional Investor All-Russia Investor Survey.

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