

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Paris - 2013, May 21st**

**“INVESTISSEURS & PARTENAIRES” COMPANY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FINAL CLOSING OF ITS PRIVATE EQUITY FUND “I&P AFRIQUE ENTREPRENEURS” AT EUR 53.9 MILLION**

Launched in May 2012, the private equity fund IPAE dedicated to SMEs in sub-Saharan Africa, announce its third and final closing at around € 54 million, ahead of its initial target. The Funds counts now 34 investors.

**THE OBJECTIVE OF THE IPAE FUND IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EMERGENCE OF A SUSTAINABLE AND DYNAMIC PRIVATE SECTOR IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.**

Jean-Michel Severino, the Chief Executive Officer of Investisseurs & Partenaires states "we have a great responsibility: investing these funds successfully for our investors, of course, but also for the proponents of the businesses that we support, and for Africa, where the success of entrepreneurial development is our cause. Our investment team is experienced and will meet the challenge."

**The IPAE private equity fund aims to support the financial needs of responsible African entrepreneurs seeking funding between EUR 0.3 and 1.5 million, as well as strategic support and targeted technical support.** The objective of the IPAE Fund is to realize up to 50 investments over the next five years in various sectors of the economy: health, microfinance, equipment, agro-industry or transport.

**A year after its launching, IPAE has invested almost EUR 11 million in more than a dozen companies.** The IPAE has, for example, funded the development of the Conergies Group in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, specialist in industrial refrigeration and air conditioning systems; the Malagasy start-up IOT, an enterprise of industrial aquaculture; the medical network Nest For All Senegal, dedicated to women and infant or the Ugandan microfinance institution Uganda Finance Trust.

**THE IPAE FUND, A SUCCESS TESTIFYING TO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE EQUITY AND IMPACT INVESTING IN AFRICA**

Attracted by an average growth rate of 5% on the African continent, **investors are turning increasingly to financial vehicles targeting Africa.** In 2012, EUR 1.4 billion was raised and EUR 1.16 billion invested in capital equity in sub-Saharan Africa. **However, small and medium-sized African enterprises today lack access to long-term funding.**

**IPAE is an "impact investing" fund designed to nurture a generation of responsible entrepreneurs and sustainable African enterprises that follow leading environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices. The IPAE Fund distinguishes itself in the landscape of African private equity through its extensive experience, and through its focus on making investments in small and medium-sized enterprises.**

## **ABOUT INVESTISSEURS & PARTENAIRES (I&P)**

Investisseurs & Partenaires is a family of investment funds created in 2002 by Patrice Hoppenot and headed since 2011 by Jean-Michel Severino.

**I&P's goal is to support the development of responsible and profitable African SMEs.** These enterprises create local "added value" and long-term employment, and generate important social, environmental and governance impacts.

**To accomplish its mission, I&P has two financial vehicles (IPDEV and IPAE)** and uses diverse financial instruments (minority equity participation, loans, others) with companies in sub-Saharan Africa.

**I&P provides capital, technical and strategic support to meet the growth needs of its clients.** I&P's team develops long term partnerships with entrepreneurs, sharing their skills and experience in the management of SMEs, and helping them structure, strategize about, and formalize their business.

**I&P's team consists of fifteen collaborators in Paris and in its five African offices in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Ghana and Madagascar.**

*To learn more about our activities, please follow us on: [www.ietp.com](http://www.ietp.com)*

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