

Press Release

Paris, 14th October, 2008



**Christian Couturier is appointed Partner
at Astorg Partners**

Astorg Partners, the independent French private equity investment team specialising in midcap LBOs, is pleased to announce the appointment of Christian Couturier as Partner from 1st October, 2008.

Christian Couturier joined Astorg as a Director of Investments in 2001 and has since played a key role in numerous transactions including Pasteur Cerba, Geoservices, Ethypharm, Webhelp and Photonis, and has served on the Boards of these companies.

Christian began his career in 1993 at Bossard Consultants, London, as a strategy and management consultant. He then joined their Paris team as a Manager before being promoted to Director in the Strategy Division following the merger of Bossard Consultants and Gemini Consulting.

Christian Couturier, 39, holds an MBA from the ESCP-EAP Business School.

Xavier Moreno, President of Astorg, said: "We are delighted to integrate Christian into the Investment Committee of the Astorg funds. His appointment reflects our trust and our recognition of his contribution to Astorg's success. Astorg will continue to develop through the promotion of its most experienced team members and the recruitment of young, talented professionals."

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Photo available on request

About Astorg Partners

Astorg Partners is an independent fund management company, specializing in French mid-market buyouts with over €1 billion under management. Astorg Partners seeks to partner with successful and entrepreneurial management teams, to acquire businesses - very often family-owned - with attractive growth prospects, which Astorg will support through the provision of experienced governance and adequate capital. Astorg enjoys a distinct entrepreneurial culture, a lean and local decision-making body enhancing its reactivity, and has a true commitment to its partnering management teams.

Although clearly a multi-sector investor, Astorg Partners has developed solid industry expertise in distribution (Sephora, Marc Orian, Un Jour Ailleurs, Picard Surgelés, Frans Bonhomme), healthcare (Sebia, Pasteur-Cerba, Ethypharm), and professional services (Lowendal Group, RLD, CIS, Geoservices, Staci, Webhelp,).

Astorg Partners has closed 57 transactions over the last 17 years, yielding an annual return (IRR) of over 30% on realized investments.

More information on Astorg Partners is available at: www.astorg-partners.com

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