

Press release

## Amundi and NextStage sign a partnership

**Paris, 24 September 2012: Amundi and NextStage announce they have concluded a partnership in private equity investments in French SMEs.**

Within the scope of this partnership, **Amundi acquires a 7.5% equity interest in management company NextStage** from Artémis, which also retains a 7.5% interest. NextStage will remain 85%-owned by its Chairman and CEO, Grégoire Sentilhes, and his associates.

Through this partnership, **Amundi**, which manages close to €700 billion in assets under management at 30 June 2012, of which €4 billion is in private equity, aims to extend its range of investments in the most promising French SMEs through a channel complementary to its internal investment teams and network of banking partners.

With close to €300 million in assets under management, **NextStage** is a leading player investing in listed and non-listed French SMEs, providing support to the most dynamic French entrepreneurs. This partnership will enable NextStage to enter a new growth phase with the technical and commercial support of Amundi, one of the leading global players in asset management.

## About Amundi :

Amundi ranks second in Europe<sup>1</sup> and ninth worldwide<sup>1</sup> among the players in asset management with €692.9 billion under management<sup>2</sup>.

Located at the heart of the main investment regions in some 30 countries, Amundi offers a comprehensive range of products covering all asset classes and major currencies.

Amundi has developed savings solutions to meet the needs of more than 100 million retail customers worldwide and designs innovative, high-performing products for institutional clients which are tailored specifically to their requirements and risk profile.

Benefiting from the support of two powerful banking groups, Crédit Agricole and Société Générale, Amundi aims to establish itself as a leading European asset management, recognised for:

- the quality of its products, their financial performance and transparency
- its close relations with customers, partner networks and institutions
- the efficiency of its organisation, resulting from the individual and collective talents of its teams
- a commitment to integrate sustainability and socially responsible criteria into its investment policies, going beyond financial criteria alone.

*1. Total assets under management – Source IPE “Top 400 asset managers active in the European marketplace” published in June 2012, based on figures as at December 2011. Ranking established from a questionnaire fulfilled by fund management companies total AUM as at December 2011 (open-end funds, dedicated funds, mandates). Ranking retreated of a double accounting of AUM.*

*2. Amundi Group figures as at 30 June 2012.*

[amundi.com](http://amundi.com)



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## About NextStage:

NextStage is an independent growth equity company specialising in investing in and financing growth in champion SMEs. It has been certified by the French financial markets authority, the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), since 2002 and manages nearly €300 million with a portfolio of 51 French and European companies, including 27 unlisted and 24 listed on the Alternext and Euronext B and C. NextStage is a leading private equity fund manager in France. It was co-founded by its Chairman and CEO, Grégoire Sentilhes, who with Managing Partners Jean-David Haas, Hervé de Beublain, Vincent Bazi, Nicolas de Saint Etienne and Amaury Bertaud holds 85% of the firm's equity. The remainder is held by Artémis, Pinault Group's financial holding company (7.5%), and Amundi (7.5%). In January 2012, NextStage also formed a strategic alliance with Matignon Investissement et Gestion which, since 1996, has been managing €200 million in growth capital.

The investment team assists entrepreneurs with its expertise and highly developed operational experience. It helps them to speed up their growth so that they can become champions in their sectors in France and internationally. In both internal and acquisitional growth, the investment team helps the SME to place innovation at the core of its business. NextStage is the only fund management company to have been awarded Gestion de Fortune magazine's three-star ranking consistently since 2007. As an investor, NextStage is committed to the entrepreneurial ecosystem, especially via its active investment in the G20 Young Entrepreneur Summit (G20 YES), Global Entrepreneurship Week (les Journées de l'Entrepreneur), the orientation council of France's strategic investment fund (FSI France Investissement) and the French Society of Financial Analysts (SFAF).

[www.nextstage.com](http://www.nextstage.com)

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