



CIS

Press Release

September 29, 2006

Astorg Partners sells CIS to Ista International GmbH

Astorg Partners and the management of the CIS group, advised by Aforge Finance, have sold all of the shares of CIS to Ista International GmbH.

CIS is France's largest supply and servicing company for individual water, electricity and heating meters rented by building managers. The company is also active in water system and valve maintenance. It was formed by Schlumberger in 1972 and was the subject of a buy-out by management and Barclays Private Equity in 2002, prior to its sale to Astorg Partners in 2004.

At the time of its acquisition by Astorg, CIS had a turnover of 70 million euros, as compared with a projected turnover of 86 million euros in 2006, the result of both organic growth and acquisitions under the leadership of Astorg and the CIS management. The company has a staff of more than 800 and operates in all of France through 17 branch offices in the Paris region and all of the country's large urban areas.

Ista International GmbH, which was acquired by CVC Capital Partners in April 2003, is the global leader in energy and water consumption metering, with a 2005 turnover of 490 million euros. In addition to its large home operations in Germany, Ista is present in 23 other countries, including France, the United States, Russia and China. The company's workforce of 3,400 operates out of 80 locations and reads 50 millions meters a year.

Its acquisition by Ista should enable CIS to embark on a new phase in its development, as part of a group whose position it reinforces as the global leader in the billing of water and energy consumption.

Aforge Finance advised the sellers. The following members of the Aforge Finance staff participated actively in the deal:

Patrick Maurel (managing partner), Louis Huetz de Lempis (partner), Nicolas Segretain (manager), Mehdi El Kadiri (manager)

***About Aforge Finance:** Aforge Finance is a consulting firm providing both Corporate Finance services and Private Banking and Family Office services. With around 100 transactions completed over the past three years, it is one of the leading independent M&A advisors in France and a leader in the mid market segment. Its positioning and its international alliance with Macquarie in the US and Sal Oppenheim in Europe provide comprehensive coverage of the U.S. and European markets and a significant local presence to optimize relations with family-owned companies, industrial groups, private equity players and capital providers.*

* * *

Press contact

Aforge Finance: Emilie Megel +331 53 81 71 20 – e.megel@aforge.com
Alexandra Imbert de Friberg +331 53 81 71 20 – a.defriberg@aforge.com