

September 2009

Crossbridge Capital LLP launches new merchant banking division

<u>Crossbridge Capital LLP</u>, the London-based wealth management boutique, which provides investment advisory and risk management services to ultra-high net worth individuals, has today confirmed the launch of its new merchant banking and principal investments division.

Crossbridge Capital is the brainchild of Tarek Khlat and Jean- Pierre Aoun, who built a \$2 billion wealth management business while at Credit Suisse. Crossbridge Capital is demonstrating that new business models, focussed on independent investment advice, can separate pockets of the wealth management industry from the gloom that has swept the rest of the financial sector.

With the launch of its merchant banking division Crossbridge Capital is now able to offer a unique platform for clients and partners to share ideas and to capitalize on investment opportunities together, as well as offer a full range of financial services to its clients through its newly integrated platform.

Tarek Khlat, Co-Founder and CEO of Crossbridge Capital, comments: "We are pleased to announce the launch of our new 6-person merchant banking and principal investments division, headed by Walid Fakhry. With this new division we are able to broaden our financial offering to clients. We find that our clients value our advice not only on their personal assets but their corporate assets as well, and we are now perfectly positioned to help on both these fronts"

Khlat continues.

"We can also act as a bridge between our clients as they seek or identify attractive investment opportunities. Our clients have similar objectives and aspirations, and we can now offer them a single platform where they can share ideas and together make the most of investment opportunities in areas including direct equity, Real Estate, and M&A. Our merchant banking division now broadens our advisory offering allowing our clients to get the best possible services to suit their financial needs."

Walid Fakhry, whose background is both in investment banking and private equity, believes the Crossbridge model takes the trusted advisor role further than it has been taken before,

"Our objective is to deliver a partnership model to our clients by leveraging our principal investments capacity in the advisory space. We are targeting transactions that require multi-disciplinary skills where our clients expect us to take on a significant principal role on their behalf. This enables us to demonstrate what can be

achieved by bringing an in-house private equity capacity to bear on corporate finance transactions."

About Crossbridge

Crossbridge Capital is an independent wealth management firm with offices in Park Lane, in central London. Crossbridge Capital offers customised investment advisory solutions to high net worth individuals and institutions. With considerable client assets at launch, the company has been established to work on behalf of its clients to advise on managing their wealth in an independent manner. Crossbridge Capital combines the innovation and boldness of a boutique operation with the high standards and professionalism of an institutional firm. Crossbridge Capital is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). http://www.crossbridgecapital.com.