

**Press release**

**July 8th 2015, Paris**

**Idinvest Partners announces the operational launch of the Chance program dedicated to indirect Chinese investment in European SMEs**

**The investment platform was officially launched in presence of**

**Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and the French Prime Minister Manuel Valls in Toulouse.**

**A first closing at €300 million with several Chinese partners is underway**

**for a targeted total investment of €1 billion.**

Idinvest Partners, the pan-European private equity fund dedicated to the financing of European SMEs, announces that China Merchant Bank (CMB), CIIC, and Shanghai Shentong Metro are the first Chinese partners that have expressed their interest to invest in the Chance investment platform. Idinvest has also entered discussions with several Chinese banks, insurers and investment funds. The initial closing round of approximately €300 million is scheduled for the end of 2015.

Idinvest Partners signed the operational launch of the Chance investment platform on July 2, 2015, during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang’s visit to France. The signing ceremony was held in Toulouse (southern France) and was attended by both the Chinese Premier and the French Prime Minister Manuel Valls.

**About the Chance program**

Chance is an investment program spearheaded by Idinvest Partners to accelerate the growth of French and European SMEs by offering them the support of Chinese capital and privileged access to Chinese markets.

Idinvest Partners, an expert in European SME growth finance, will be responsible for selecting the companies that will receive investments. SMEs financed by the Chance program are aiming to accelerate their footprint and grow faster in China. To do this, they will also receive the operational support of Idinvest Partners and its Chinese partners.

The program will be built around the priority sectors for Sino-French cooperation which were detailed by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during his speech Toulouse also attended by French Prime Minister Manuel Valls: climate change, smart city, agricultural technology, food safety, internet technologies and general innovation.

The name Chance is a contraction of “China” and “France”. The Chance program aims to address a financing a technology gap identified in Sino-European relations:

* on the one hand, French and European SMEs with technological know how need equity to unlock their international growth potential;
* on the other hand, the Chinese SOEs and private investors seek to invest capital in France and Europe based on China’s priority sectors: health and safety, green technologies, smart cities, financial technology (fintech).

The Chance investment program aims to create between 2,000 and 3,000 direct jobs in France and in Europe through the SMEs companies it will fund. In addition, a sister investment program will be set up in China to stir job creation in the Mainland.

The success of this plan involves a specific investment strategy, supported by a number of Chinese partners who have expressed their desire to join the Chance platform, among them China Merchants Bank, CIIC and Shanghai Shentong Metro.

**Operational launch of Chance**

Spurred by the combined efforts of the Chinese and French governments, Chance calls for a total investment of €1 billion by Chinese partners in one or more dedicated investment vehicles managed or co managed by Idinvest Partners. The agreement stipulates that the investments, which will be minority stakes, will target French and European SMEs operating in health, environmental technologies, financial technologies (fintech), digital technologies and agri food industries. Chance investees will receive operational support in the Chinese market from Idinvest and its Chinese partners.

**Short and medium-term outlook for Chance**

Idinvest Partners has entered into discussions with several Chinese banks, insurers and funds. An initial closing round of approximately €300 million is in preparation for the end 2015.

**About Idinvest**

Idinvest Partners is a French investment firm dedicated to the financing of innovative French and European SMEs and mid market companies. With more than €5.5 billion in assets under management and some 50 employees, Idinvest is one of Europe’s leading mid-market private equity firms. Founded in 1997 as AGF Private Equity, Idinvest was a subsidiary of Allianz until 2010, when it went independent with backing from the IDI Group. www.idinvest.com

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