

CHAMONIX PRIVATE EQUITY RAISES CHAMONIX II LP TO ACQUIRE FIVE NON-CORE BUSINESSES FROM LINPAC GROUP

In a ground-breaking transaction, funds managed by Chamonix Private Equity LLP ('Chamonix') have acquired five businesses from LINPAC Group ('LINPAC'). Chamonix provided LINPAC with a solution to dispose of five non-core, unrelated business units in one transaction rather than undertake five separate disposals. Chamonix has acquired 100% ownership of the businesses and thus completed five institutional buy-outs in one transaction.

Chamonix II LP is a special purpose fund raised to acquire and invest in the five businesses. The investors in Chamonix II LP are funds advised by HarbourVest Partners, LLC and Headway Capital LLP, as well as members of the Chamonix team.

Debt funding was provided by HSBC Bank plc, HSBC Invoice Finance (UK) Limited and Investec Bank plc.

Andrew Hartley, Chamonix partner, commented: 'We are delighted to have completed this significant acquisition of five unrelated businesses to provide a tailored solution for LINPAC. We have worked closely with our investors to structure the transaction and fund, and they have been highly supportive during a complex process.'

Mike Pugatch, a Principal of HarbourVest, said: 'We are excited to partner with Chamonix on this unique transaction given their proven capabilities managing similar businesses. We are pleased that Chamonix chose HarbourVest as their equity partner in light of our significant experience purchasing portfolios of direct investments.'

In brief, the activities of the five business units are:

- **Apex Space Solutions Limited (formerly LINPAC Storage Systems):** manufacturing and marketing of adjustable pallet racking solutions and shelving systems. Based in Milton Keynes.
- **Leaffield Environmental Limited (formerly LINPAC Environmental)** (including Paxton Agricultural): manufacturing and marketing of plastic litter, recycling and street furniture products for the public and private sectors, as well as a range of agricultural products, including rain water harvesting. Operates from Corsham, Wiltshire.
- **Regain Polymers Limited (formerly LINPAC Recycling):** recycling of post-use rigid plastic into specified recycled compounds to supplant prime in a wide range of moulding applications and end-markets. Based in Yorkshire.
- **Intellident Limited** (including Ident SAS): systems integration of RFID technology and barcode solutions for libraries, the supply chain and document management. Headquartered in Stockport.
- **Caldicot Metal Decorating Limited (formerly LINPAC Metal Decorating):** printing in full colour on tinsplate and aluminium sheet. Located in Caldicot, Gwent.

In 2010 the businesses had combined sales of over £70m, and employed approximately 450 people. All are based in the United Kingdom, although Intellident has a small presence in France and the Netherlands.

Chamonix partner Jane Crawford further added 'We see opportunities to develop these businesses and intend to commit substantial resources to drive growth and strategic and operational improvement, as we have done successfully in our current portfolio.'