



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **A new player in Central European mezzanine**

Syntaxis Capital has been formed by Ben Edwards, Przemek Szczepanski and Thomas Spring to become a new force in arranging and providing mezzanine capital to medium-sized Central European businesses. Syntaxis will initially operate through offices in Vienna and Warsaw. It has formed a strategic alliance with Indigo Capital Limited, a well established and leading provider of mezzanine capital to European businesses. As part of the alliance, Indigo Capital will take a minority stake in Syntaxis, and Syntaxis and Indigo will work together on developing investment opportunities and implementing investments.

Ben Edwards of Syntaxis said: “We believe the mezzanine market in Central Europe will become increasingly important and we are delighted to be able to form our own investment management company and build on the extensive relationships we already have in the region. Indigo’s experience as a highly respected mezzanine provider will be extremely valuable and their involvement is a huge endorsement of Syntaxis and our business plan. We look forward to working with them in Central Europe as the market continues to develop and provide exciting investment opportunities.”

Martin Stringfellow of Indigo Capital said: “We are delighted to have been able to form an alliance with Syntaxis who we believe have the experience, expertise and relationships to form the basis of a new investment management firm dedicated to mezzanine capital in Central Europe. We look forward to working closely with them by bringing our own experience in European mezzanine capital to the newer market of Central Europe.”

### **More information on Syntaxis**

Ben Edwards has been active in the European leveraged finance market for over 18 years. He was one of the original team members at Mezzanine Management, joining that firm in 1989 shortly after its formation. More recently, Ben was one of the founding members of the team at Mezzanine Management responsible for its Central European fund, Accession Mezzanine Capital (AMC). Przemek Szczepanski and Thomas Spring were also both previously involved in the management of AMC. All three individuals have significant experience in the field of mezzanine capital and leveraged finance for Central European companies. Through its initial two offices, Syntaxis will seek to provide mezzanine capital to Central European companies across a wide range of industries, typically in management buy-outs and other leveraged transactions.

### **More information on Indigo Capital**

With offices in London and Paris, Indigo Capital Limited (“Indigo”) is a well established and highly respected specialist provider of mezzanine capital to medium-sized European businesses. It was formed in 1999 by four former directors of investment bank Kleinwort Benson (now Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein) who had together managed a series of mezzanine capital funds since 1989. Indigo’s investment track record includes over 70 portfolio company investments across Europe, now spread between four different funds. Indigo’s current investment fund, Indigo Capital IV, has

capital commitments of €475 million and is backed by international institutional investors including state and corporate pension funds, specialist funds-of-funds, life assurance groups, banking institutions, public sector bodies and charitable foundations. Indigo specialises in providing mezzanine finance in amounts typically ranging from €10 million to €30 million for transactions such as management buy-outs and buy-ins, corporate expansion, restructurings and recapitalisations, both in conjunction with private equity investors and on a solo basis in so-called 'sponsorless' transactions.

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