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21 PARTNERS TO HOLD A 2ND CLOSING ABOVE EUR 300 M FOR FRENCH MID-CAP BUYOUT FUND

21 Partners is pleased to announce the second closing of its fourth French Private Equity Fund, 21 Centrale Partners IV, with total commitments already in excess of EUR 300 million, setting it on par with its predecessor, 21 Centrale Partners III, which was closed in 2006 at EUR 330 million.

This second closing of Fund IV has attracted existing investors as well as new international investors, which are eager to benefit from 21 Centrale Partners' competitive edge in a changing private equity environment, after having taken the time to reassess and adapt their investment strategies to the latter. Investors include Pension Funds, Insurance Companies, Banks, Funds of Funds, and Families from Switzerland, France, Italy, Benelux, The United Kingdom, The United States, Germany, Northern Europe and Asia.

21 Centrale Partners has maintained a top quartile track record, and proved its ability to execute complex deals, as shown by the recent and promising first investment of Fund IV, Coyote, the French leader in automotive telematics services. Such circumstantial achievements, coupled with 21 Centrale Partners' unique strategic approach to value creation, as well as the extensive industrial and financial network provided by the 21 Platform and relationship with the Benetton conglomerate, explain why an increasing number of LPs believe in the 21 Model.

Gérard Pluvinet, *Founding Managing Partner of 21 Centrale Partners*, commented: *"We expect a substantial closing for 21 Centrale Partners IV by this summer, and we are very well positioned to readily benefit from current market conditions with attractive valuations, and leverage on economic recovery to continue providing investors with promising growth stories."*

> ABOUT 21 PARTNERS

21 Partners is an International private equity Group dedicated to growth buy-outs in the Italian and French mid-markets. The group led by Alessandro Benetton and Gérard Pluvinet manages in excess of Euro 1 Billion of assets. www.21partners.com