

21 CENTRALE PARTNERS, DISTINGUISHED AS  
“BEST FRENCH LBO TEAM” FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

*Capital Finance* and *Les Echos*, French newspapers dedicated to Private Equity and Mergers & Acquisitions, have awarded 21 Centrale Partners the prize for “Best French LBO Team”, all market sizes accounted for.

The *Capital Finance* jury, composed of a panel of Private Equity experts including bankers, intermediaries and Private Equity funds, based its ranking on the global quality of the team and its performance throughout 2008.

In 2008, 21 Centrale Partners, which stands among the most experienced teams in the French Private Equity market, conducted 5 acquisitions, including Ligier-Microcar, Club Med Gym and Palmers-Lejaby and 3 successful exits.

**Gérard Pluvinet**, Founding Managing Partner at 21 Centrale Partners declared: *“In the current market environment, we very much appreciate this distinction, which fully reflects the sustainability of 21 Centrale Partners’ investment strategy, combining our multi-disciplinary expertise and International platform to maximize value for our investors”.*

This award is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive of the type. In 2007 and 2008, 21 Centrale Partners was distinguished as “Best French Mid-Market LBO Team” by *Private Equity Magazine* and *La Tribune*. The team, which is finalising the last investment of Fund III, is currently raising its Fund IV, a €M 500 Fund dedicated to growth buy-out in the French mid-market.

#### About 21 Centrale Partners

21 Centrale Partners is a Private Equity firm specialised in growth LBOs, investing primarily in International mid-market companies based in France. 21 Centrale Partners is part of the 21 Group led by Alessandro Benetton and Gérard Pluvinet, which manages above Euro 1 billion of assets.

For additional information: [www.21centralepartners.com](http://www.21centralepartners.com)

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