

## Press Release

### **Syntegra Capital announces the sale of Groupe SVP**

*Paris, 19 September 2011:* Syntegra Capital has announced the sale of its stake in Groupe SVP to Crédit Agricole Private Equity as part of a majority LBO in association with the management team. Groupe SVP has been backed by Syntegra Capital Fund III since 2007.

Groupe SVP develops a range of services to help businesses and local authorities with the management and development of their activities. It has four main business lines: personalised professional information and help with decision-making (SVP), legal information for client relations (BusinessFil), payroll and HR management (e-Paye), and skills development (Agif).

Operating in a market fuelled by the growing need among SMEs and local authorities for outsourcing in complicated areas, often impacted by regulatory changes, the Group has established itself as the market leader in providing support for decision-makers at businesses and local authorities.

Groupe SVP has exhibited steady growth to sales of c. €50 million in 2010. It has over 450 employees in France and around 9,000 clients (businesses, local authorities, advisory professions). Its registered office is in Saint-Ouen (France).

The aim of the deal is to create a long-term partnership between management and the new shareholder in order to support the company's organic growth and step up its rate of expansion through acquisitions.

**Olivier Lenormand, the Group's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer**, stated: *"The collaboration of Crédit Agricole Private Equity fits in fully with our desire to find a partner to support us in our expansion. We have two main focuses: to strengthen our position in our existing business lines - primarily thanks to our new services such as sector summaries or updates - and to increase in size via targeted acquisitions in the markets in which we operate".*

**Patrick Bergot, Partner at Syntegra Capital** commented ; *"Syntegra is delighted to have worked with Groupe SVP in assisting the growth to date through its acquisition strategy. We wish the company and Crédit Agricole Private Equity well as the Company moves to the next phase of its growth"*

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**About Syntegra Capital**

*Syntegra Capital, founded in 1997 as SGCE, was initially sponsored by Société Générale. The firm is a middle market private equity firm focusing on four geographic areas of Continental Europe: Benelux, France, Germany and Italy. Syntegra Capital has a team of eleven investment professionals operating from offices in Frankfurt, London, Milan and Paris and typically makes equity investments from €7 million to €35 million. The team has so far invested in 34 companies in a variety of industries. Among others, it has bought into AEB (food ingredients, Italy), Altice/Coditel (cable operator, France/Belgium), Beissbarth (garage equipment, Germany/Italy/France), Druck Chemie (specialty chemicals, France/Germany), Gevers (intellectual property management, Belgium), GHH Valdunes (railway wheels, France/Germany), Joyau (logistics, France), Lince (business information, Italy), Moleskine (diaries & notebooks, Italy), Schülerhilfe (educational services, Germany), Stark-Verlag (publishing, Germany), SVP (advisory services, France) and Unither (pharmaceutical sub contract manufacturing, France).*

**About SVP**

*SVP provides tax, legal, social and market intelligence information to approximately 7,000 business customers, local administrations and communities in addition to law firms, independent accountants or trade associations. The service is mainly supplied over the telephone where for an annual subscription, clients (mainly SME's) have unlimited access to the SVP call center. SVP services rely on an ability to provide immediate answers and information on a real time basis on specific questions from approximately 180 specialized consultants and its international network of correspondents in 37 countries with 600 experts. The company also processes extensive public as well as proprietary information, manages databases and a telecom system.*

*The group sells its services through the SVP brand and in addition to the above, also provides translation services and has developed specific product offerings for key accounts (such as multi-location businesses*

*e.g. franchise networks) or all-in packages for large companies (banks, insurances, etc.) that use such services within their CRM strategies.*