

PRESS RELEASE

Astorg sells CIS to Ista International GMBH

Paris, October 5th, 2006

Astorg and the management team have just sold CIS (Comptage Immobilier Services) to Ista International GMBH.

CIS is the leading French facility management company active in the sub-metering industry where it provides water and heating meter management services for collective housing used by building managers. CIS is also present in water network refurbishment and tap maintenance.

Integrated into the Schlumberger group in 1972, CIS was the subject of an LMBO by Astorg Partners in 2004.

CIS, which recorded a turnover of €70m at the time of its acquisition by Astorg, now forecasts generating €86m in 2006 as a result of the internal and external growth policy carried out by the company's management with the support of Astorg.

CIS employs 820 people in France and benefits from an excellent national coverage through its 17 agencies located in the main provincial towns as well as the Paris area.

The acquisition will make it possible for CIS to engage in a new phase of its development within Ista, an international group which, as a result of this operation, will consolidate its own position as world leader in water and heating meter management services.

Christian Holweck, President of CIS comments: *“We are delighted to become part of the Ista group, world leader in water and heating meter management services. This alliance preserves our independence of all suppliers, guarantees economies for our customers at a time when the subject of water and energy costs is particularly sensitive. Beyond the obvious geographical complementarity, the two companies will also capitalize on each other's skills in their traditional activities. Indeed:*

- *Ista has excellent expertise in individual heating meter reading, an activity that is very developed in Germany*
- *CIS brings its know-how in the management and maintenance of water networks in collective housing.* “

“CIS is a company of exceptional quality in terms of its management, the services it provides to customers as well as its customers portfolio” adds Xavier Moreno, Managing Partner of Astorg. *“We have been very happy and found it rewarding to partner with the CIS management and contribute to the company's growth up to this new step in its development, within an international group”.*

Astorg Partners (Xavier Moreno, Pascal Noguera, Alexandre Vannelle) and the directors of CIS were advised by:

- M&A Advisors: Aforge Finance (Patrick Maurel, Louis Huetz de Lemps, Nicolas Segretain, Mehdi El Kadiri)
- Legal Advisors: Ayache Salama (Olivier Tordjman, Joanna Ghorayeb, Gaëlle Quillivic)
- Legal Advisors (Competition): Vivien & Juvigny (Olivier de Juvigny, Delphine Berg)
- Legal Advisors (Management): LMT Lawyers (Antoine Lemétais)
- Legal Advisors (Company): Philippe d' Hauthuille

Ista International GMBH was advised by:

- M&A Advisors: BNP Paribas
- Financial Advisors: Deloitte
- Legal Advisors: SJ Berwin
- Legal Advisors (Competition): Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

About Astorg

Astorg is a an independent French private equity team managing €500m invested in the buy out of industrial and service companies with high internal or external growth potential. **Astorg** works in close cooperation with the company's management teams to combine operational success with an entrepreneurial spirit in a true partnership to implement their development projects. **Astorg** distinguishes itself by its entrepreneurial culture, its team's reactivity enhanced by a short and local decision making process and its full involvement as a shareholder within each of the companies of its concentrated portfolio.

Although managing non sectoral funds, Astorg has accumulated vast experience in a number of sectors including: distribution (Sephora, Marc Orian, Un Jour Ailleurs, Picard Surgelés, Frans Bonhomme), healthcare services (Sebia, Pasteur-Cerba), professional services (Lowendal Group, RLD, CIS, Geoservices) and capital goods (ECM, Mecatherm).

Astorg has concluded 50 transactions over the last fifteen last years, generating an IRR of over 30% on all realized investments.

For more information on Astorg Partners: www.astorg-partners.com

About CIS

CIS is the French leader in water and heating meter management services for collective housing used by building mangers for whom the company is constantly innovating to provide the most efficient services. CIS is fully operational nationwide through its regional subsidiaries (ODE, Aquagest, SECR, SLCG) and agencies. Beyond the fair allocation of water and heating charges among occupants, CIS' services generate substantial energy savings: CIS has been a partner of ADEME, the French agency for the environment and energy management for several years. Boasting nearly one hundred years of expertise, CIS generated a turnover of €81m in 2005.

About Ista

Ista International GMBH, acquired by the CVC Capital Partners investment fund in April 2003, is the world leader in collective housing metering, with a turnover of €490m in 2005. In addition to a strong presence on its home market, Germany, Ista is also present in 23 countries including France, the United States, Russia and China. The group's 3.400 employees are located throughout its 80 sites and manage 50 million meter readings annually.