



ATLAS MERCHANT CAPITAL

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Atlas Merchant Capital
Announces Acquisition of Credicom

London: Atlas Merchant Capital LLC (“AMC”) announces that it has acquired, through its affiliated investment fund, Atlas Merchant Capital Fund LP (the “Fund”), 100% of Credicom Consumer Finance Bank S.A. (“Credicom”). Credicom is a specialist lender in Greece, with a full commercial and retail banking license with a history in automotive financing. AMC acquired Credicom after receiving Single Supervisory Mechanism clearance from the European Central Bank for the acquisition of a European bank.

Bob Diamond, CEO and Founding Partner of AMC, said: “My Co-Founder and CIO, David Schamis and I are thrilled to make our Fund’s first European investment, having previously invested in two other companies in North America. We believe that European financial services represent attractive investment opportunities, particularly for a firm like AMC, which has such strong operating expertise.”

AMC is an investment firm focused exclusively on the global financial services sector. It currently has investments in banking, reinsurance and broking. AMC takes a differentiated approach to financial services investments, believing that long-term capital, balanced with operating experience and regulatory expertise, will best serve its partners and its investments.

This approach means AMC is well positioned to invest in and develop Credicom into a unique merchant bank that can assist Greek entrepreneurs, small businesses, individuals and corporate customers. Under AMC ownership, Credicom will seek to work closely with its clients to identify their needs and provide solutions under the framework of a long-term relationship.

Anthimos Thomopoulos has been appointed CEO of Credicom, and will be supported by a highly experienced team including Anastasia Sakellariou and Theophilos Constantinidis. Mr Thomopoulos was until recently CEO of Piraeus Bank Group. During his tenure, Piraeus Bank was transformed into the leading banking institution in Greece. Prior to that he was Deputy CEO of National Bank of Greece, leading the bank’s privatisation, operational restructuring and international expansion. Ms Sakellariou is the former CEO of the Hellenic Financial Stability Fund, reshaping and restructuring the Greek banking sector including the resolution of 12 non-core banks. She also held senior roles at Hellenic Postbank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Salomon Brothers. Mr Constantinidis is the former Head of Taskforce Unit at Piraeus Bank Group, leading the restructuring initiatives of a number of companies and Greek sectors. He has over 25 years of banking experience across major international investment banks including UBS, Merrill Lynch, and Deutsche Bank, where he was leading structured finance and special situations teams.

Matthew Hansen, the Head of UK and Europe for AMC, said: “We are very pleased to acquire Credicom. Buying operating businesses and platforms is at the core of what AMC does and we see significant opportunity in the Hellenic market. We have appointed a leadership team that has deep experience in building banks, led by Anthimos Thomopoulos. He has decades of experience and we are excited to work with him.”

Anthimos Thomopoulos, said: “I am very excited at the prospect of leading a Greek bank once again, especially one of the quality and opportunities presented by Credicom, which, with no legacy issues and an exclusively forward-facing perspective, is unique in the Greek banking market. I know the country, its banks and its economy, and I firmly believe that with the right financial support, Greek companies are set to thrive. We are assembling a very experienced team. We want to work alongside our clients to address their challenges with solutions and investment.”

“Having the backing of AMC, with its highly experienced financial services operating experience, was fundamental in my decision to accept the role of CEO, and I am grateful for their support. I look forward to working closely with them and my colleagues at Credicom as we develop the business and assist our clients.”

Terms of the acquisition have not been disclosed.

Contacts

Atlas Merchant Capital

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About Atlas Merchant Capital LLC

Atlas Merchant Capital LLC was founded to participate in compelling market opportunities in the financial services sector. Based in New York and London, Atlas Merchant Capital was founded by Bob Diamond and David Schamis, who together with their partners form a complementary partnership with extensive operating and investing expertise across the financial services landscape.

Further information is available at www.atlasmerchantcapital.com.