

Paris, April 30, 2014

## **Natixis acts as Mandated Lead Arranger for the N17-N18 PPP motorway project in Ireland**

**Natixis is to provide long-term project financing for the design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of the N17-N18 motorway project in Ireland – under a PPP contract with the Irish National Roads Authority, won by the Direct Route consortium comprising Marguerite Fund, InfraRed, Sisk, Lagan, Roadbridge and Strabag.**

A joint venture composed by Lagan, Roadbridge, Sisk and Strabag will be in charge of the construction of the 57km motorway standard dual-carriageway route, between Gort and Tuam, Ireland. Lagan and Strabag will provide operation and maintenance services.

Natixis acts as Mandated Lead Arranger and Hedging Bank and brings, alongside two institutional investors, a €118 million contribution to the total €331 million financing. Two other banks and the European Investment Bank participate in this financing as well.

The financing structure developed by Natixis for its commitment favors the intervention of institutional investors who expressed their interest for the infrastructure asset class. In that context, AG Insurance (Ageas group) partnering with Natixis invests in the project through a 27-year fixed-rate tranche. AG Insurance and Natixis are proud to invest in Ireland for their seventh project in their partnership.

This project is the first signal confirming the international project finance markets' confidence in Ireland since 2010.

### **About Natixis**

Natixis is the corporate, investment and financial services arm of Groupe BPCE, the 2nd-largest banking group in France with 21% of total bank deposits and 36 million clients spread over two networks, Banque Populaire and Caisse d'Épargne.

With more than 15,300 employees (excl. Coface), Natixis has a number of areas of expertise which are organized in three main business lines: Wholesale Banking, Investment Solutions and Specialized Financial Services.

A global player, Natixis has its own client base of companies, financial institutions and institutional investors as well as the client base of individuals, professionals and small and medium-size businesses of Groupe BPCE's two retail banking networks.

Listed on the Paris stock exchange, it has a solid financial base with a CET1 capital under Basel 3 (1) of €12.5 billion, a Basel 3 CET1 Ratio (1) of 10.4% and quality long-term ratings (Standard & Poor's: A / Moody's: A2 / Fitch Ratings: A).

(1) Based on Natixis understanding of CRR-CRD4 rules reported on June 26, 2013, including the danish compromise - without phase-in except for DTAs on tax loss carry forwards

Figures as at December 31, 2013

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Natixis is a recognized player in the infrastructure space and has notably obtained the following rankings in 2013:

#1 Arranger in France for PPP, Concessions or DSP by Le Magazine des Affaires

#1 Financial Advisor to sponsors in France by Décideurs

#3 Infrastructure Bank of the Year in Europe by Infrastructure Investor

#15 Global MLA for Project Finance by Thomson

More information on Natixis infrastructure expertise available on:

<http://cib.natixis.com/infrastructure>

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