

Paris, February 19, 2015

Natixis expands its footprint in M&A advisory to midcap corporates and financial sponsors: contemplated acquisition of Leonardo & Co.'s activities in France

Natixis announced that it has entered into exclusive negotiations with Italian banking group Banca Leonardo for the contemplated acquisition* of Leonardo & Co SAS ("Leonardo France"). Leonardo France current management team would partner with Natixis to acquire the company.

Leonardo France is a leading player in M&A advisory to midcap corporates and financial sponsors in France. The team of 25 investment bankers led by Patrick Maurel advises on over thirty transactions each year.

The company would become Natixis entity dedicated to M&A advisory to midcap corporates and financial sponsors.

The acquisition of Leonardo France would enable Natixis to strengthen its position as a reference player for the French midcap sector, in both financing and M&A, and thus to reach a significant milestone in the execution of the New Frontier plan.

The transaction would also contribute to enhance the strategic dialog with Wholesale Banking clients and generate additional synergy potential with Groupe BPCE networks.

About Natixis:

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

With more than 16,000 employees, Natixis has a number of areas of expertise that are organized into three main business lines: Wholesale Banking, Investment Solutions & Insurance, 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 banking networks.

Figures as at September 30, 2014

About Leonardo & Co SAS:

Leonardo & Co SAS, located 32 rue de Lisbonne, 75008 Paris, is an independent M&A advisory firm. As of December 31st 2014, the team includes 25 investment banking professionals including 7 Managing Directors. The company is renowned for its expertise, in particular on sell side mandates, and benefits from a strong visibility with over 30 transactions advised each year.

Press contacts:

Sonia Dilouya	sonia.dilouya@natixis.com	+33 1 58 32 01 03
Laure Sadreux	laure.sadreux@natixis.com	+33 1 58 19 34 17

**The project is subject to information and consultation with labor representative bodies*

 Follow us on Twitter! @Natixis_com