

# ARDIAN

## PRESS RELEASE

### ARDIAN ACQUIRES US\$1.75 BILLION PRIVATE EQUITY PORTFOLIO FROM COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM ("PSERS")

*Transaction highlights Ardian's position as world leader in secondary Funds of Funds and preferred partner for world class institutional investors looking to monetize their private equity assets and rebalance their portfolios.*

**New York, January 5, 2015** – Ardian, the premium private investment company, announces it has signed a Sale and Purchase Agreement in December 2014 with PSERS for the acquisition of a US\$1.75 billion portfolio of limited partnership interests in private equity funds. This deal represents one of the largest secondary private equity transactions in 2014 and confirms Ardian's world leadership in secondary Funds of Funds.

With assets totaling approximately \$52 billion and approximately 477,000 active and retired members, the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System is among the largest public pension funds in the United States. "PSERS is endeavoring to reduce its exposure to private equity to 15 percent of the fund's size, and the depth of the secondary market makes possible a large asset sale that will bring us closer to our long-term target," according to PSERS' Chief Investment Officer James H. Grossman. PSERS was advised by Cogent Partners on this transaction.

This transaction continues Ardian's secondary funds strategy to offer liquidity to large institutions looking to monetize their private equity investments. Since 2010, Ardian has deployed more than US\$20 billion in secondary private equity investments. The latest biggest transactions in secondaries include:

- A portfolio of 17 LP interests from PSERS, representing a total size of \$1.75bn, December 2014;
- 3 LP interests from a US Pension Fund, representing a total size of \$627m, November 2014;
- 40 LP interests from a Sovereign Wealth Fund, representing a total size of \$2.38bn, September 2014;
- 30 direct assets from a US Financial Institution, representing a total size of \$804m, July 2014;
- 340 LP interests from a US Financial Institution, representing a total size of \$1.44bn, March 2014;
- 36 LP interests from a Sovereign Wealth Fund, representing a total size of \$1.36bn, March 2014.

Benoit Verbrugghe, Member of the Executive Committee and Head of Ardian US said: "We are highly selective when analyzing potential assets. We were able to execute on this large portfolio given our strong existing relationships with the fund managers in combination with our excellent knowledge of the underlying assets. The deal exemplifies our ongoing commitment to creating value for our investors."

Mark Benedetti, Managing Director Funds of Funds at Ardian added: "With our deep knowledge of the market, our focus tends to be on larger deals with quality assets where we can achieve a good outcome for both sides. This acquisition highlights Ardian's proven ability of executing large and complex secondary transactions, and confirms Ardian as the leader in secondary Fund of Funds."

## ABOUT PSERS

PSERS is the 19th largest state-sponsored defined benefit public pension fund in the nation. As of September 30, 2014, PSERS had net assets of approximately \$52.0 billion and a membership of more than 263,000 active school employees and nearly 214,000 retirees.

## ABOUT ARDIAN

Ardian, founded in 1996 and led by Dominique Senequier, is a premium independent private investment company with assets of US\$50bn managed or advised in Europe, North America and Asia. The company keeps entrepreneurship at its heart and delivers investment performance to its global investors while fuelling growth in economies across the world. Ardian's investment process embodies three values: excellence, loyalty and entrepreneurship. Ardian's employees form the largest shareholder group. Over 80 percent of employees have invested in the company, which is testament to their trust in the management and the corporate strategy.

Ardian maintains a truly global network, with more than 340 employees working through ten offices in Paris, London, New York, Beijing, Frankfurt, Jersey, Luxembourg, Milan, Singapore and Zurich. The company offers its 346 investors a diversified choice of funds covering the full range of asset classes, including Fund of Funds (primary, early secondary and secondary), Direct Funds including Infrastructure, Expansion, Mid Cap Buyout, Ardian Growth, Co-Investment and Private Debt.

[www.ardian-investment.com](http://www.ardian-investment.com)



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