

ARDIAN



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CAPITAL PARTNERS LLC

PRESS RELEASE

ARDIAN ARRANGES UNITRANCHE FINANCING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SIX DEGREES GROUP BY CHARLESBANK CAPITAL PARTNERS

Recent investment activity confirms Ardian's position as a leading provider of unitranche financing in Europe.

London, July 15th, 2015 - Ardian, the independent private investment company, today announces the arrangement of a unitranche financing for the acquisition of Six Degrees Group ("6DG") by Charlesbank Capital Partners from Penta Capital. This investment will provide 6DG with the financial backing to continue its acquisition strategy. The transaction further confirms Ardian's position as one of the leading providers of unitranche financing in Europe.

Six Degrees Group, a London-based technology infrastructure provider, was formed in June 2011 and has grown both organically and through acquisitions to become a leading provider of converged technology infrastructure delivering cloud, colocation, data and unified communications services to the UK mid-market. Earlier this month 6DG acquired Capital Support Group, the London-based IT services provider. The Group generates a turnover of over £80 million.

Charlesbank is a Boston-based mid-market private equity firm with over \$3 billion under management. This investment is the culmination of Charlesbank's efforts to establish a platform investment in the UK tech sector. Post-acquisition, 6DG will benefit from substantial additional capital to fund the company's ambitious acquisition strategy.

Alastair Mills, CEO of 6DG, said: "It is now almost four years since Six Degrees was founded, and this is a significant milestone in our development. We are delighted to have delivered excellent returns to Penta during its ownership and we thank the team for supporting our original vision. Now we are looking forward to working with Charlesbank and Ardian to establish Six Degrees as the leading mid-market converged managed services provider, and we have ambitious plans to achieve this through both acquisitive and organic growth."

ABOUT SIX DEGREES GROUP

Founded in 2011 and with around 400 employees, Six Degrees Group is a converged technology infrastructure provider that is transforming the managed services landscape in the UK. 6DG has invested in its own data centres, cloud platforms, next generation data network and voice switching capability, and leverages these core assets to develop, manage and support its unique portfolio of solutions. The company is committed to delivering exceptional customer service and has recently achieved the prestigious 'Silver Investors In People' accreditation.

www.6dg.co.uk

ABOUT CHARLESBANK CAPITAL PARTNERS

Based in Boston and New York, Charlesbank Capital Partners is a middle-market private equity investment firm managing more than \$3 billion of capital. Charlesbank focuses on management-led buyouts and growth capital financings, generally investing \$50 million to \$150 million per transaction in companies with enterprise values of \$100 million to \$750 million. The firm seeks to partner with strong management teams to build companies with sustainable competitive advantage and excellent prospects for growth.

www.charlesbank.com

ABOUT ARDIAN

Ardian, founded in 1996 is an independent investment company with assets of US\$50bn managed or advised in Europe, North America and Asia. The company, which is majority-owned by its employees, 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 maintains a truly global network, with more than 350 employees working through ten offices in Paris, London, New York, Beijing, Frankfurt, Jersey, Luxembourg, Milan, Singapore and Zurich. The company offers its 355 investors a diversified choice of funds covering the full range of asset classes, including Private Debt, Fund of Funds (primary, early secondary and secondary), Direct Funds including Infrastructure, Expansion, Mid Cap Buyout, Ardian Growth and Co-Investment.

www.ardian.com



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