

25 January 2010

Better returns anticipated for Listed Private Equity

Research shows 2010 may mark a period of sustained returns for listed private equity

LPEQ, a group of 17 European listed private equity companies, today commented on historical research highlighting periods of sustained returns for listed direct private equity following years where these investment vehicles have traded at a discount to net asset value ("NAV").

The research, conducted by LPX Group ("LPX"), shows that over a 16 year period, when the share prices of listed direct private equity companies traded at discounts to their NAV, they have typically produced superior returns in the following three years.

In the 12 years since 1993 when these investment vehicles have traded at a discount at the year end, they have outperformed global equities, as measured by the MSCI World Index ("MSCI"), 75% of the time in the following three years (see attached table and graph).

For example, listed direct private equity traded at a discount of 16% at the end of 1998 and then produced a return of 71% for the years 1999 to 2001, outperforming the MSCI which returned just 20% for the same period. Similarly, for the year 2002, listed direct private equity traded at a discount of 22% and then returned 106% for the years 2003 to 2005, compared to the MSCI which returned 50%. Conversely, in 1999 and 2005 listed direct private equity traded at premiums of 15% and 6% respectively and returns for the following three years were -17% and -56% respectively.

Listed direct private equity traded at a discount of 16% as at 31 December 2009, which would suggest that, based on this historical analysis, returns from listed direct private equity for the following three years for investors should be attractive.

Koen Dejonckheere, CEO of Gimv NV, a member of LPEQ, commented: "Despite a challenging two years when discounts were at their widest for most of the sector, the outlook for listed private equity is more positive going into 2010 and the LPX research substantiates this. There is no reason why 2010 should not be a good vintage year, so now is an attractive time to consider investing in the sector."

Brian Scouler of Dunedin Enterprise, Managers of Dunedin Enterprise Investment Trust PLC, a member of LPEQ, commented: "These findings are good news for investors who are seeking returns in a low growth environment. Listed private equity in particular offers private as well as institutional investors the most ready access to the asset class, so any findings that show the potential of attractive returns in the sector is a positive development for the investment community."

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Ed Gascoigne-Pees/Nick Henderson, PR for LPEQ, +44 (0)20 7269 7132/+44 (0)20 7269 7114
Ed.gascoigne-pees@fd.com/nick.henderson@fd.com

Andrea Lowe, Principal, +44 (0)20 8995 9466; andrea.lowe@lpeq.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

About LPEQ

LPEQ is a group of 17 European listed private equity companies with a combined market capitalisation of over €5 billion. Launched in 2006 (originally as iPEIT), LPEQ's aim is to raise awareness and understanding of listed private equity among the investment community and its commentators. The members of LPEQ are: Conversus Capital LP, Deutsche Beteiligungs AG, Dinamia Capital Privado SCR SA., Dunedin Enterprise Investment Trust PLC, Electra Private Equity PLC, F&C Private Equity Trust plc, Gimv NV, Graphite Enterprise Trust PLC, Henderson Private Equity Investment Trust plc, HgCapital Trust plc, J.P.Morgan Private Equity Limited, JZ Capital Partners Limited, NB Private Equity Partners Limited, Pantheon International Participations PLC, Princess Private Equity Holding Limited, Standard Life European Private Equity Trust PLC and SVG Capital plc.

More information is available at www.lpeq.com

About LPX Group

LPX Group offers investment solutions for a transparent and liquid access to listed alternative asset classes based on our in-depth research & investment advisory. Furthermore LPX Group has pioneered Listed Private Equity index series and serves as an index sponsor for listed alternative asset classes; the Listed Private Equity (LPX) and Infrastructure (NMX) index series serve the financial community as performance benchmarks, effective research tools and as the basis for a variety of tailored financial products.

More information is available at www.lpx-group.com