

Crown Agents Bank and Crown Agents Investment Management Acquired by Helios

Acquisition will enable Crown Agents Bank and Crown Agents Investment Management to cement their positions as the leading wholesale bank and leading investment management firm for frontier and emerging markets.

LONDON, 1st April 2016. Helios Investors III, L.P., a fund advised by Africa-focused private investment firm Helios Investment Partners (Helios), has completed the acquisition of 100% of Crown Agents Bank Limited (CAB) and Crown Agents Investment Management Limited (CAIM), following the receipt of regulatory approvals.

CAB and CAIM provide payments, trade finance, foreign exchange and investment management services to frontier and emerging markets, primarily in Africa, the Caribbean and South-East Asia, and act as a commercial gateway for entities seeking to operate in these regions. They have been active in the developing world since 1833, providing solutions to governments, non-government organisations, central banks, commercial banks, non-bank financial institutions, international companies, and pension and investment fund managers.

The financial services businesses were previously owned by Crown Agents Limited, an international development company that partners with governments, aid organisations and the private sector in almost 100 countries around the world. While client relationships will be unaffected by this transfer of ownership, the Helios investment will add financial resources to better meet the growing needs of CAB and CAIM's customers.

Tope Lawani, co-founder and Managing Partner of Helios Investment Partners, said: "Helios is delighted to be partnering with CAB and CAIM's experienced management team, and we look forward to bringing our African knowledge and financial services expertise to bear in realising the significant growth potential of these businesses."

He added: "We share a vision to transform CAB into the leading wholesale bank for small- and medium-sized countries; and to transform CAIM into the leading investment management company for those operating in our markets, including central banks, commercial banks, non-bank financial institutions and investors looking to participate in frontier and emerging market growth."

Richard Jones, Managing Director of CAB and CAIM, comments: "The acquisition brings together our trusted reputation and longstanding experience in small- and medium-sized countries with Helios' deep knowledge of African markets and strong track record in adding value to its portfolio companies. A stronger capital base will allow us to enhance our services to existing and new clients during a time of widespread retreat by mainstream banks from emerging markets, enabling us to help our clients maximise their commercial opportunities."

David Richardson, CEO of Crown Agents, says: "This is a great opportunity for Crown Agents. CAB and CAIM will benefit from the capital and expertise that Helios can provide to help them to expand in the financial services market. Crown Agents Limited will be able to invest in and grow the broader areas of the business that make a positive and sustainable impact on the lives of people around the world."

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Notes to Editors

About Crown Agents Bank and Crown Agents Investment Management

CAB and CAIM are specialist providers of payment, cash management, trade, treasury and investment services, focused on the needs of governments, development organisations, financial institutions and corporates. Experts in working with emerging and frontier markets, they offer tailored, practical and effective solutions built on deep local knowledge and experience of complex environments. Among their clients are governments, commercial banks, development organisations, donors, central banks, pension and investment fund managers and corporates with international transactional needs.

About Crown Agents Limited

Crown Agents is an international development specialist working in over 100 countries around the world. It is a social enterprise owned by a not-for-profit foundation. It combines private sector agility with a public good ethos to strengthen health systems, respond to humanitarian crises, build effective supply chains, facilitate trade to support economic growth and deliver PFM and governance innovations that enhance governments, institutions and policy.

About Helios Investment Partners

Helios Investment Partners is an Africa-focused private investment firm. Helios operates a family of funds and their related co-investment entities, aggregating approximately \$3 billion in capital commitments, pursuing a full range of investment types, including business formations, growth equity investments, structured investments in listed entities and large scale leveraged acquisitions across Africa. Established in 2004 and led by co-founding partners Tope Lawani and Babatunde Soyoye, Helios is one of the largest investment firms focusing on Africa and is among the few independent pan-African private equity investment firms to be founded and managed by Africans.