

Helios invests in the development of tertiary education in Francophone Africa and partners with entrepreneur Mohamed Kabbadj to establish a student housing platform in the region

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Helios Investment Partners ("Helios"), the leading Africa-focused private investment firm, has today announced a partnership with Mohamed Kabbadj, founder and CEO of KMR Holding Pédagogique ("KMR"), the leading private higher education group based in Morocco. Helios' investment will serve to support the rapid development plan of KMR, both in Morocco and across Francophone Africa, as well as to establish a student housing platform in the region.

With the recent acquisition of Université Internationale de Casablanca and the opening of a new private medical university, KMR is now the largest Francophone higher education platform in Africa. Serving more than 8,000 students, the group offers degree programs in several fields including Engineering, Management, Tourism & Hospitality as well as executive programs. Helios' investment will serve to contribute to KMR's development phase focused on consolidating its position as one of the foremost tertiary education providers in Francophone Africa.

Having established a successful purpose-built student accommodation platform in Kenya, Helios looks forward to applying its student housing development expertise across Francophone Africa.

Mohamed Kabbadj, founder and CEO of KMR, said: "Helios' network and investment expertise in Africa will help accelerate KMR's development plans in the region, and strengthen our leadership position in higher education in Francophone Africa. We would also like to expand into the growing student housing market and build on Helios' successful experience in Kenya."

Zineb Abbad El Andaloussi, Partner at Helios, commented: "We are pleased to partner with Mr. Mohamed Kabbadj to consolidate KMR's leadership position in tertiary education in Francophone Africa. We are very optimistic about the growth prospects of the higher education market in Africa, including student housing, and we strongly believe in KMR's ability to rapidly expand across the region."

## For further information please contact:

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## **Notes to Editors**

## **About Helios Investment Partners**

Established in 2004, Helios Investment Partners is the leading Africa-focused private investment firm, led and managed by a predominantly African team and based in London, Lagos and Nairobi. Managing funds totaling \$3.6 billion, the firm's portfolio companies operate in over 40 countries in all regions of the continent. Helios has built a record that spans creating start-ups to providing expanding companies with growth capital and expertise, building African market leaders in core economic sectors and driving strong returns via portfolio operations. The firm's unique combination of deep knowledge of the African operating environment, a singular commitment to the continent and a proven capability to manage complexity, is reflected in its position as a partner of choice.

## **About KMR Group**

KMR is the leading State-recognised multi-disciplinary private Higher Education platform in Francophone Africa with over 8,000 students across state-of-the-art campuses in Casablanca, Marrakech and Dakar. The group delivers affordable quality higher education in medicine & health sciences, engineering, business & management, hospitality, art & culture, sport and executive programs, providing international exposure to African students through access to a network of 200+ universities and higher education institutions across the world and degrees with multicampus curriculums that can include courses in North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. KMR ensures best-in-class employability rates through programs tailored to both country and employer needs with a focus on growth industries as well as personalized career services and mentoring. KMR was founded by successful entrepreneur Mohamed Kabbadj and is backed by private equity firms Development Partners International (DPI) and Mediterrania Capital Partners (MCP).