



PRESS RELEASE

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Helios Investment Partners closes \$900 million African private equity fund

London, June 13, 2011 – Helios Investment Partners (“Helios”), a leading pan-African private equity firm, today announced the final closing of its second Africa-focused fund at the fund’s \$900 million cap.

In line with investment strategies in Helios’ previous fund, the new fund, Helios Investors II, L.P., (“Helios II”), will invest \$25 to \$250 million of equity per transaction in various forms, including business formations, growth equity investments, structured investments in listed entities and large leveraged acquisitions. The fund’s investments will be focused on high-growth sectors which have been deregulated, are core to the economy and are sectors in which the firm has particular expertise. These include Telecommunications & Media, Financial Services, Power & Utilities, Distribution & Logistics and fast moving consumer goods.

In recent months, Helios has made three investments through the Helios II fund: the acquisition of Interswitch, Nigeria’s leading electronic payments processing company; the establishment of Helios Towers Africa which builds and operates telecommunications tower businesses across Africa, and the acquisitions of tower portfolios in Ghana, Tanzania and the DRC; and the acquisition of Continental Outdoor Media, Africa’s largest outdoor advertising company. In addition, Helios recently announced the acquisition of Shell’s downstream fuels business across Africa.

Helios II was substantially oversubscribed, despite the challenging global fundraising market conditions, with demand exceeding \$1 billion. Continued political and market liberalisation and strong economic growth have prompted global investors to evaluate investment opportunities in Africa more closely. The Fund’s potential to make attractive risk-adjusted returns with comparatively low correlation to developed markets enabled it to attract a diverse investor base, which includes support from institutional investors in the predecessor Helios fund, as well as first time commitments to Africa from a broad range of endowments and foundations, funds of funds, corporate pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and development finance institutions across the USA, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Helios II will be deployed by a team of investment professionals whose deep understanding of the African market, coupled with extensive global private equity experience, provides a unique advantage in originating and evaluating investment opportunities in the region. This team is supported by Helios’ dedicated Portfolio Operations Group, who work in active partnership with portfolio company management to create value within the firm’s portfolio by driving operational improvements.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

Helios Investment Partners is an Africa-focused private investment firm. Helios operates a family of funds and their related co-investment entities, aggregating more than \$1.7 billion in capital commitments.

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.

Helios' portfolio companies operate in more than 25 countries, and in various industrial sectors, across the African continent. The firm has significant experience in private equity investing across a broad range of industries and investment types - leveraged buyouts, recapitalisations, joint ventures, seed-stage venture capital, restructurings, and strategic public equity investments.

Limited partners in Helios' funds include several leading global funds of funds, endowments and foundations, sovereign wealth funds, family offices, high net-worth individuals and development finance institutions. Further details on Helios Investment Partners can be found at www.heliosinvestment.com.