

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Helios recognized as Private Equity International's Africa Firm of the Year**

*Award bestowed for a fifth consecutive year and marks Helios's 20-year anniversary*

**4 March 2024**, Helios Investment Partners ("Helios"), the largest Africa-focused-private investment firm, is proud to announce it has been recognized, for the fifth consecutive year, as Private Equity International's Africa firm of the year.

The award is testament to the firm's unwavering commitment to creating attractive investment opportunities through its deep local insights and world class capabilities, all while delivering growth with impact. It caps off a year of active engagement on a number of fronts:

- Completed the sale of Solevo (formerly Louis Dreyfus Company's African Inputs business), the largest provider of fertilizers to farmers in French-speaking Africa, to a group of financial investors. During Helios' ownership, Solevo doubled its EBITDA and assisted one million West and Central African smallholder farmers in increasing crop yields by 23x and reducing crop damage by 50%.
- Listed CAB Payments on the London Stock Exchange. Under Helios' ownership, the business was transformed from an unprofitable business focused on trade finance to a profitable and cash-generative specialist business-to-business foreign exchange and payments platform across frontier and emerging markets. CAB became B Corp certified in 2023.
- Completed two landmark investments: IXAfrica, a Kenya-based data center, delivering over 20MW of hyperscale-ready data center capacity; and Maroc Datacenter ("MDC"), a carrier-neutral data center in Morocco. Helios aims to capitalize on the soaring demand for internet connectivity from a young and highly digitally-connected population and the rapid adoption of cloud solutions among enterprises in these two countries.
- Renewal of B Corp certification, Helios was first certified in 2020. The firm's score improved despite the tightening of the B Corp criteria.
- Completed EcoVadis ESG Ratings across Helios's portfolio companies, over 60% of the portfolio were awarded a medal, 21% of portfolio rated Ecovadis' global top 5% (Platinum/Gold). EcoVadis is a global sustainability rating provider that assesses over 100,000 companies globally.

Technological developments and innovation, combined with an attractive demographic profile, are powering a new wave of investment prospects across the African continent. Helios sees significant opportunities to unlock the continent's vast potential, targeting sectors ripe with inefficiencies such as financial services, digital infrastructure, and essential consumer goods. As the most established African investor with a 20-year track record on the continent, Helios is a key actor in Africa's economic transformation.

**Tope Lawani, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Helios Investment Partners, commented:**

*"We are honored to be recognized for a fifth consecutive year by PEI. Helios' unique position at the intersection of African opportunity and global investment excellence is testament to our achievements over our 20-year history and reaffirms our objectives to continue fostering sustainable growth, value creation and innovative solutions across the continent."*

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**About Helios Investment Partners**

Established in 2004, Helios Investment Partners is the largest Africa-focused private investment firms, with a record that spans creating start-ups to providing expanding companies with growth capital and expertise. The firm has over \$3.0 billion in assets under management and is led and managed by a predominantly African team based in London, Lagos, Nairobi and Paris, with the language skills and cultural affinity to engage with local entrepreneurs, managers, and intermediaries on the continent. Helios leverages its local and global networks to create attractive proprietary investment opportunities, with an emphasis on building market leaders in core economic sectors and driving performance through a highly engaged approach to portfolio operations. The firm's unique combination of a deep knowledge of the African operating environment, a singular commitment to the region and a proven capability to manage complexity, is reflected in its diverse portfolio of growing, market-leading businesses, and its position as a partner of choice in Africa. Helios is the second mainstream private equity firm globally, and the largest emerging markets focused private equity firm, to achieve B Corp certification. B Corp status recognizes the firm's longstanding commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices.