

Asteria Investment Managers, the impact investing affiliate of REYL Group, to enter into strategic tie-up with Obviam AG

Geneva, 3 December 2020. **Asteria Investment Managers (Asteria), the recently launched impact investing firm controlled by REYL & Cie Ltd (REYL), is to enter into a strategic tie-up with Swiss impact private asset manager Obviam AG (Obviam), in a partnership that will bring together complementary skills to create a unique and prominent player within the impact investing ecosystem.**

This transaction fits perfectly with Asteria's core strategic plan devised upon its creation in 2019. Obviam's recognised private equity expertise offers strong complementarity with Asteria's liquid markets and private debt focus. Moreover, Obviam's long-standing quality track record with public Development Finance Institutions such as SIFEM from the Swiss Confederation can resonate and attract new funding through Asteria's private institutional network.

The new entity, to be named Asteria Obviam, will reinforce its positioning as a player fully dedicated to intentional impact investing, focused on favouring environmental and social progress across the full spectrum of impact strategies. The company will also generate cross-benefits from its consolidated distribution network and state-of-the-art technology platform using Big Data and Machine Learning. This transaction will give rise to a unique impact asset management group with over CHF 1 billion AUM, a 20-year track-record and more than 50 investment professionals.

In addition to sharing the same strategic objective to reconcile positive impact and market performance delivered through a robust and well-tested investment process, Asteria and Obviam benefit from perfectly aligned corporate cultures and values, stemming from their Swiss anchoring and international investment scope. In order to ensure talent retention and incentivisation, the senior management teams of Asteria and Obviam, led by Katia Coudray as CEO, will become significant shareholders in the new entity. The Obviam office and team, led by Obviam founder Claude Barras and located in Bern, will be maintained without disruption.

Importantly, the new operation will benefit from the continued support and commitment of REYL, which recently announced a strategic partnership with Fideuram - Intesa Sanpaolo Private Banking, one of Europe's leading banking groups, allowing for expanded distribution capabilities and accelerated growth.

Francois Reyl, CEO at REYL & Cie, said: *"The term "impact investing" has been trending in our industry over the past decade without much meaningful commitment from its main actors. With this transaction, we aim not only to demonstrate our firm optimism in this asset class in words but, more importantly, to translate our engagement through action. We believe that this combined entity will be able to offer the opportunities that clients are increasingly requesting through a more inclusive and truly impactful way of investing."*

Katia Coudray, CEO of Asteria Investment Managers, said: *"I am delighted to start this cooperation with Obviam. They are not only recognised as experts but also great people. This new entity is reinforcing the Swiss Financial Place for Sustainable Investing, allowing to build bridges between the various impact segments and to intensify the collaboration within public and private sector around sustainability."*

Claude Barras, CEO at Obviam, said: *"The combination of these two businesses will enable us to further build on our objective of delivering strong investment returns for our clients, as well as investing profitably to improve the livelihoods of people in developing and emerging markets. Our combined expertise and aligned interests open doors to achieve an even greater level of impact for society by building on our track record to attract additional funds from the private sector."*

To address all questions related to this announced operation, **a virtual press conference, hosted by Pasha Bakhtiar, Katia Coudray and Claude Barras will be held at 14:00 CET today.** To register, please contact Miriam Dippe, dippe@irf-reputation.ch, +41 43 244 81 48 (office).

About the REYL Group

www.reyl.com

Founded in 1973, the REYL Group is an independent diversified banking group with offices in Switzerland (Geneva, Zurich, Lugano), Europe (London, Luxembourg, Malta) and the rest of the world (Singapore, Dubai). The REYL Group manages assets in excess of CHF 13.5 billion and employs more than 220 professionals.

Developing an innovative approach to banking, the Group serves a clientele of international entrepreneurs and institutional investors through its *Wealth Management, Entrepreneur & Family Office Services, Corporate Advisory & Structuring, Asset Services* and *Asset Management* business lines.

REYL & Cie Ltd is licensed as a bank in Switzerland and performs its activities under the direct control of the independent Swiss Financial Market regulator (FINMA) and the Swiss National Bank (SNB). The REYL Group's subsidiaries are also regulated by the LPCC in Switzerland, the FCA in the UK, the CSSF in Luxembourg, the MFSA in Malta, the MAS in Singapore, the DFSA in Dubai and the SEC in the United States.

About Asteria Investment Managers

<https://asteria-im.com/>

Launched by the REYL Group, Asteria is a Swiss Asset Management company entirely dedicated to Impact investing. Regulated by the FINMA and benefiting from a team of 15 seasoned specialists, Asteria builds up its proprietary Impact and ESG research platform using an innovative technological platform based on Big Data and using Machine Learning.

Asteria targets positive social and environmental impact by achieving market returns thanks to robust investment process and stringent risk control run by a team of professional with complementary profiles, coming from both side: the finance industry and sustainability ecosystem.

Asteria aims to improve impact investing accessibility to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable economy, helping to close the financing gap, proposing listed assets and private debt capabilities.

About Obviam

www.obviam.ch

Obviam is a FINMA-licensed asset manager with over 20 years of experience in impact investing. The firm employs around 30 professionals in Bern and has a portfolio of more than 500 companies in over 70 countries. Currently, Obviam has assets under management of over USD 1 billion.

Obviam invests profitably in improving the livelihoods of people in developing and emerging markets, and thereby supports inclusive growth. Its clients benefit from bespoke portfolios tailored to their needs, financial objectives, and impact preferences. Each investment is individually selected for its expected contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable development, and the impact of portfolios is measured and analysed systematically. Obviam actively supports the adoption of international best practice on environmental, social and governance issues (ESG).

Obviam manages the investment portfolio of the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM), the Development Finance Institution (DFI) of the Swiss Confederation. The firm also manages UBS's first impact fund and oversees the impact investing portfolios of other institutional and professional investors such as Fondation Botnar and the Madagascar Biodiversity Fund (FABPM).

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