



PRESS RELEASE

**1.45 BILLION EURO FINANCING FINALIZED
FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GÉNÉRALE DE SANTÉ**

Milan, 29th October 2007. DeA Capital S.p.A. announces that the financing agreements, worth **€ 1.45 billion**, for the acquisition and the future development of Generale de Santé (GDS) have been finalized. GDS is the leading group in the French private hospital sector and it is 80,6% owned, directly and indirectly, by Santé S.A., whose shareholders are DeA Capital (43,01%), Mr. Antonino Ligresti (47%) and Mediobanca (9,99%).

The companies financed are GDS and its controlling shareholders, Santé Developpement Europe (SDE) and Santé S.A. SDE is the vehicle, fully controlled by Santé S.A., that in recent months bought a stake in GDS and subsequently launched a simplified public offer on the French company, listed on the Paris Eurolist Market.

This financing optimizes the financial structure of all layers involved in the acquisition of GDS, and provides the three companies with the necessary long term resources to underpin the French Group's strategic plan. The contracts entered into by these companies with Mediobanca S.p.A., Mediobanca International S.A. and Calyon S.A., entail reimbursement in several tranches maturing from 7 to 10.5 years, and include Senior, Mezzanine and Junior PIK notes.

The funds will repay the bridge loan previously provided to SDE and Santé by the same banks in order to sustain the acquisition of GDS shares. Moreover they will be used to refinance the majority of the existing debt of GDS and to make available an additional € 200 million facility for capital expenditures and possible acquisitions.

Finally, the Supervisory Board of GDS has called a General Shareholder Meeting to vote on the proposed distribution of an extraordinary dividend worth around € 420 million, as consistent with the plan to reshape GDS's financial structure, already announced by SDE at the time of the public offer. The proceeds of this dividend will be used, pro quota, by the controlling shareholders Santé SA and SDE, to repay their existing debt.

Paolo Ceretti, DeA Capital's CEO, stated, *"We are extremely satisfied with the definitive terms of the GDS financing, which guarantee stable, long-term resources for the acquisition of GDS, and create the best conditions for GDS to achieve its strategic objectives. Despite the current difficult conditions of the debt markets, we have been able to finalize in a satisfactory manner one of the principal LBO transactions in Europe following this summer's financial crisis."*

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