

PRESS RELEASE

BNP Paribas Lease Group to open in Romania

Paris, 8 July 2008. BNP Paribas Lease Group – European leader specialized in equipment leasing and rental solutions – announces the opening of a subsidiary in Romania.

BNP Paribas Lease Group is extending its coverage to Romania. This country has been enjoying strong growth since 2001 and is now profiting from its accession to the European Union on 1 January 2007. Leasing companies have benefited in particular, especially in the transport, farming, building and public works sectors, in which financing solutions are supporting growing needs for professional equipment.

Convinced by the opportunities and potential for international companies in Romania, BNP Paribas Lease Group is aiming to help its partners grow by offering its complete range of solutions and services. Following developments in Poland and Hungary and a collaboration with UkrSibbank in the Ukraine, BNP Paribas Lease Group will be approaching the Romanian market with a dedicated, experienced team under the management of Philippe Chabert, who rises to this challenge after four years in Italy. BNP Paribas Lease Group will also be calling on the experience and support of other BNP Paribas Group companies already operating in Romania, such as Cetelem, Arval and Cardif.

“Today, the development of Eastern European countries is a reality, offering fine opportunities close to home. Romania’s accession to the European Union makes it even easier for international firms to enter the country. We are delighted about the opening of this subsidiary, which will allow us to provide full support to our industrial partners in Romania”, said Philippe Lambert, Head of International Development at BNP Paribas Lease Group.

BNP Paribas Lease Group background

BNP Paribas Lease Group is the BNP Paribas subsidiary specialized in equipment leasing and rental solutions for businesses and professionals, provided either directly or through its partners, the equipment manufacturers, distributors and editors.

Organized around two international business lines - Technology Solutions and Equipment&Logistics Solutions – and two areas of business – professional real estate and trade and industry equipment – BNP Paribas Lease Group aims to provide rental solutions and credit, combined with services such as insurance, maintenance and repair policies.

Having integrated Arius⁽¹⁾ and Artegy⁽²⁾, teams into its commercial structure, only BNP Paribas Lease Group is today in a position to make such a wide-ranging offer, which extends from simple leasing arrangements to long-term leasing contracts, and outsourcing facilities management.

BNP Paribas Lease Group has been in this market for over 50 years and is the French and European market leader. It offers manufacturers, importers and distributors of logistics and software editors a comprehensive service to finance their sales and, with them, develops local, national and international partnerships, which range from advisory agreements to joint financing companies. BNP Paribas Lease Group also provides and manages the asset and real estate lease-financing services that the BNP Paribas banking network offers its customers.

BNP Paribas Lease Group operates in 19 countries: directly in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India (joint venture with SREI), Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK, Ukraine, and through BNP Paribas Group entities in Algeria (El Djazaïr), Morocco (BMCI Leasing), Tunisia (UBCI Leasing), Turkey (TEB Leasing), and USA (Trinity Vendor Finance).

(1) Arius: the IT open-ended leasing expert.

(2) Artegy: specializing in long-term commercial vehicle leasing with services.

For further information:

www.bnpparibas-leasegroup.com

www.arius.fr

www.artegy.com and www.artegy.co.uk

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About BNP Paribas

BNP Paribas (www.bnpparibas.com) is a European leader in global banking and financial services and is one of the 4 strongest banks in the world according to Standard & Poor's. The group is present in over 85 countries, with more than 168,000 employees, including 129,500 in Europe. The group holds key positions in three major segments: Corporate and Investment Banking, Asset Management & Services and Retail Banking. Present throughout Europe in all of its business lines, the bank's two domestic markets in retail banking are France and Italy. BNP Paribas also has a significant presence in the United States and strong positions in Asia and the emerging markets.

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