



EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD HAS ADVISED THE FOUNDERS OF AQUILA GROUP IN THE DISPOSAL OF A MAJORITY STAKE OF THE GROUP TO CATELLA

Edmond de Rothschild Corporate Finance has advised Aquila Group, a French real estate asset manager, in the opening of share capital to Catella.

Catella has agreed to acquire 60 percent of the shares in Aquila Group which consists of Aquila Asset Management and the real estate investment fund management company Axiplit Real Estate Partners, with in total EUR 1.4 billion in assets under management. The acquisition will complement Catella's strong existing Corporate Finance operations in France as well as the continued growth of its pan-European platform.

Aquila Group consists of Aquila Asset Management, founded in 2010, and the real estate investment fund management company Axiplit Real Estate Partners, founded in 2021. Axiplit offers innovative and differentiating solutions to both retail and professional investors and is regulated by the French Financial Markets Authority (Autorité des Marchés Financiers). The shares are acquired from local management who will remain minority shareholders. The acquisition is financed by Catella's own capital. Closing of the transaction is subject to regulatory approval and expected during the second half of 2023.

"The acquisition of the majority of Aquila means that we add another piece of the puzzle in place on our growth journey. Aquila is one of the largest independent players in real estate asset management in France with very high competence, an eminent portfolio, and a large network. The acquisition will provide strong synergies with our existing operations in France and Europe, while the entry into the French fund business for private investors is of great strategic importance," said Christoffer Abramson, CEO of Catella.

France is one of Europe's most attractive investments markets and Aquila Group is an important real estate asset manager transforming into a European player with EUR 1.4 billion in assets under management and sound profit margins. The acquisition will contribute and complement Catella's existing operations and ambition to further capitalize on the company's strong financial position to expand into new businesses and markets.

"The partnership with Catella will give us extra power in our strategic journey of transforming into a global player in real estate savings. Aquila has a successful history built on local expertise, and as we now join Catella's European network, we form a very strong team, internally in Europe as well as on the French market" said Jean-Marc Sabiani and Gilles Barbieri, Founders and Managing Partners at Aquila.

“This partnership is a very important component in our endeavor to take the next step on the group’s profitable growth journey and to be an attractive partner for investors globally. We are now significantly strengthening our position,” said Christoffer Abramson.

STAKEHOLDERS IN THE OPERATION

SHAREHOLDERS

Aquila Group: Jean-Marc Sabiani, Gilles Barbieri

SELL-SIDE ADVISORS

M&A sell-side advisor: Edmond de Rothschild Corporate Finance (Jonathan Jacquin, Julien Beraud, Victor Auguin-Rougier, Etienne Ceccaldi)

Corporate lawyers: YARDS (Jean-Philippe Jacob, Julien Brouwer)

ACQUIRER

Catella: Christoffer Abramson, Timo Nurminen

ABOUT THE EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD GROUP

As a conviction-driven investment house founded upon the belief that wealth should be used to build the world of tomorrow, Edmond de Rothschild specialises in Private Banking and Asset Management and serves an international clientele of families, entrepreneurs and institutional investors. The group is also active in Corporate Finance, Private Equity, Real Estate and Fund Services.

With a resolutely family-run nature, Edmond de Rothschild has the independence necessary to propose bold strategies and long-term investments, rooted in the real economy.

Founded in 1953, the Group had nearly CHF 158 billion in assets under management at the end of December 2022, 2,500 employees, and 30 locations worldwide.

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