

Polaris launching third private equity fund

- ***Polaris Private Equity III will have commitments of more than EUR 275m at first closing***
- ***A significant number of new, international investors joining Polaris' existing group of investors***
- ***Investment strategy unchanged with focus on Sweden and Denmark***

Polaris Private Equity ("Polaris") announces the first closing of a new private equity fund ("Fund III") with initial commitments of more than EUR 275m that will invest in small and medium-sized industrial and service sector businesses based in Denmark and Sweden.

The commitments for Polaris Private Equity III are being provided by the existing group of investors, including A.P. Moller Maersk, Danske Bank and ATP Private Equity Partners. In addition, a number of new Danish investors are backing the new fund, including Salling Fonden, FIH, Primo Holding and C.L. Davids Fond og Samling and a number of international investors including Pohjola Private Equity Funds (Finland), Alliance Trust Equity Partners (Scotland), the private equity arm of Alliance Trust PLC, a FTSE-100 company and the largest listed investment trust in the UK by market capitalisation, ACG Private Equity (France), Parvilla (France) and Euro Private Equity (Switzerland).

"The strong support for our new fund from both new and existing investors is testament to Polaris and our entire team for the investment strategy we have pursued and the results we have achieved with Fund I and Fund II. It shows confidence in our business model – even during the current quite challenging times," says Erik G. Hansen, chairman of Polaris Management.

"Having reached more than EUR 275m at first closing and with prospects of additional commitments from more investors as we approach the final closing later this year, we stand well prepared to continue growing in a market offering good opportunities for new investments and add-on investments for our existing portfolio businesses," adds Jan Johan Kühl, managing partner of Polaris.

"We will continue to stay focused on mid-sized companies in Denmark and Sweden. For Fund II, not least, that approach led to some very promising acquisitions of five businesses in Sweden that we have since strengthened through add-on acquisitions of ten other businesses. In addition to being one of the leading players in Denmark, these transactions make Polaris one of the most active private equity funds in Sweden, and that is a strategy we intend to continue and expand through Fund III," says Jan Johan Kühl.

Jan Johan Kühl
Polaris Private Equity

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About Polaris Private Equity

Polaris Private Equity is a private equity fund investing in mature small and medium-sized businesses in Denmark and Sweden with a sound development potential and revenue of EUR 25–200m. To date, Polaris has invested in 18 businesses, eight of which were resold at a decent profit. Polaris has also made a number of additional investments in its portfolio companies.

The first Polaris fund of approximately EUR 190m is fully invested and fully exited, while the second fund – Polaris Private Equity II, holding capital commitments of approximately EUR 270m – has taken stakes in ten companies and has allocated funds for add-ons to these portfolio businesses: BabySam, PWT Group (Tøjeksperten, Wagner and Texman), Fiskarbedenvillan, Frösunda, Emotron, Skamol, Hamlet Protein, AddPro, Jetpak and ColorPrint.

The investors behind Polaris include Danish investors such as A.P. Moller Maersk, Danske Bank and ATP Private Equity as well as international investors such as Alliance Trust Equity Partners, Pohjola Private Equity Funds, Euro Private Equity and ACG Private Equity.