

Partnership Announces Cinven as new Majority Shareholder subject to regulatory approvals

Cinven buys out majority shareholding from Phoenix Equity Partners

Partnership, the UK's premier provider of financial products for individuals with reduced life expectancy has today confirmed that terms have been agreed between Cinven and Phoenix Equity Partners under which Cinven will acquire Phoenix's majority shareholding, subject to regulatory approvals.

Partnership is one of the UK's leading specialist providers of retirement solutions. These include impaired and enhanced annuities, long-term care plans and life cover. The markets in which PA operates are expected to show significant future growth resulting from the combination of the rapid migration to defined contribution schemes and demographic trends as well as regulatory developments driving fairer pricing of annuities in the UK. These developments include the promotion of the use of the Open Market Option for annuity purchases which is raising awareness of the benefits of enhanced and impaired annuities which deliver significantly enhanced annual incomes for customers.

In addition to buying out the existing shareholders, Cinven will inject further capital into the business to strengthen still further the company's existing very strong balance sheet, and has given a commitment to invest further substantial amounts if required to support future business developments. Cinven expects to make significant investment in the staff, brand, infrastructure and distribution channels in order to deliver maximum benefit from this high growth segment of the financial services market.

Ian Owen, Executive Chairman said:

"Phoenix Equity Partners have been tremendously supportive of our business, and I would like to publically thank Sandy Muirhead and his colleagues for the tremendous support which they have given us.

Cinven has the investment firepower to enable us to now go much further, much faster. They share our vision for the business in building on our market leading mortality data, expertise and reputation to become the undisputed

leader in underwritten annuities, whether “enhanced” or “impaired”, whilst continuing to build on our pre-eminent position in the care market.

We are rightly proud of what we do and aspire to provide the best products and service for our specialist markets: with Cinven’s help we are confident that we are well placed to meet that aspiration and look forward to working with them to deliver a market leading proposition”

-ENDS-

**For further editorial information or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Tony Mangan, Tristan Pineiro or Gemma Shaw at 3 Monkeys Communications
on 020 7440 2410 or email partnership@3-monkeys.co.uk.**

Note to Editors:

About Partnership

Partnership is one of the UK’s leading providers of specialist financial products for people living with health conditions, providing innovative products tailored to a client’s particular circumstances or needs. We cater for a wide range of conditions - from hypertension to more serious conditions like cancer

Partnership were proud winners of a Financial Adviser 5 star award both in 2006 and 2007.



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About Cinven

Cinven is a leading international buyout firm that has led transactions with a value in excess of €60 billion.

Established in 1977, the firm invests in five key sectors: business and financial services; healthcare; industrials; retail, leisure and consumer; and technology, media and telecommunications (TMT).

Cinven has offices in London, Paris, Frankfurt and Milan and has announced plans to open offices in New York and Hong Kong. Wherever they are based, Cinven's people work together as one team.

Cinven's recent investments include Dutch Cable (€5.5bn, Sept 06 – Jan 07), Gondola (€1.3bn, Nov 06 – Jan 07), Spire Healthcare (€2.1bn, Aug 07) and Phadia (€1.3bn, Jan 07).

Cinven Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.