

PRESS RELEASE

SYZ Group launches private markets investment company – SYZ Capital

- SYZ Capital is an investor and advisor for Private Markets seeking privileged access to attractive investments in private equity, private debt and real estate investment opportunities
- SYZ Capital provides investment, financing and capital structuring solutions
- SYZ Capital was co-founded by Marc Syz, Managing Partner

Geneva, 10 December 2018 – SYZ Group, the family-owned Swiss financial group, has launched SYZ Capital, a private market investment and advisory specialist. As the fourth business arm of the group, it focuses on selecting attractive investment opportunities across private markets, offering tailor-made solutions through thematic funds and co-investment vehicles, as well as advisory services around financing solutions and capital structuring.

Unlocking private market opportunities

SYZ Capital is a private markets investment and advisory specialist founded by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs. It focuses on investment opportunities in segments of private markets overlooked by traditional market participants because of size, complexity or varying investment horizons.

Based in Zurich, Switzerland, and co-managed by Marc Syz and Olivier Maurice, the company delivers a partnership model which aims to attract the next generation of private market specialists. This approach is supported by a large advisory network of private equity specialists, debt and real estate practitioners, as well as recognised industry experts.

Marc Syz, co-manager of SYZ Capital explains:

“Finding the best trends requires specific skills. SYZ Capital aims to offer unique access to select niche opportunities across private markets and direct investments. It strives to ensure alignment of all parties’ interests by being actively involved in every transaction.”

The offering is underpinned by two pillars. Firstly, SYZ Capital will offer a diversified, multi-manager fund, which will use a proprietary asset allocation model to assess opportunities on an absolute and relative value basis across markets, while being cognisant of market cycles. Its unconstrained approach strives to find the best risk-reward opportunities throughout the capital structure. SYZ Capital will also offer bespoke mandates to investors seeking tailored portfolios across private market sub-segments.

Secondly, a dedicated team will specifically focus on growth investment opportunities, such as buy-and-build strategies, where sector leaders can be created by consolidating a fragmented market. It will team up with established and experienced family businesses – embedded in industries and possessing deep operational knowledge – to maximise value creation. With execution expertise in Europe and Asia, SYZ Capital offers deal-by-deal direct investment opportunities to family offices and investors.

Too big to ignore

While private markets represent an important part of the world economy, they are difficult for most investors to access. Out of the USD 80 trillion investable assets, private markets represent approximately USD 5.1 trillion, including private equity, private debt and real assets.

Financial literature and empirical evidence demonstrate private markets can deliver returns above those of traditional asset classes. This is encouraging investors to increasingly consider alternative investments as part of a well-diversified portfolio¹. Now more than ever, as companies stay private for longer and investors look to generate returns in a low rate and volatile environment, investors may benefit from including private market investments in a broader portfolio of assets.

SYZ Capital democratises private equity investments

While investors have had access to hedge fund strategies for decades, private markets are still dominated by institutional capital. As a global investment group whose priority since inception in 1996 has been the generation of performance for its clients, SYZ Group recognises the potential, in terms of returns and diversification, of private market strategies and aims to make them more accessible to its non institutional clients.

Eric Syz, CEO of SYZ Group, notes, *“SYZ Capital is the latest evolutionary step for SYZ Group. It demonstrates we are continually breaking the mould and innovating for our clients. With SYZ Capital, we aim to democratise private equity investments.”*

He adds, *“Our client base is mainly composed of entrepreneurs, who understand the real economic impact of investing in private companies; it means sharing a vision and benefitting from the growth generated by a successful business model.”*

“Many of our clients have built great companies, creating economic growth and jobs, not only because they had good ideas, but also because they were supported by financial partners that shared the same vision.”

Biographies

Marc Syz, Managing Partner

Marc is the co-founder and Managing Partner of SYZ Capital. With over 14 years of investment experience, he leads the firm’s direct investments and is a member of the executive and Investment committees. Prior to that, he was the Managing Director of ACE & Company, a global co-investment group. He led the Asian, Hong Kong based expansion for the group and managed several investment portfolios focusing on Europe and Asia.

Marc used to be the Head of Capital Markets & Equity Sales at Union Bancaire Privée in Geneva. He started his career as a derivatives trader and worked at Credit Suisse First Boston in the Structured Products division.

Marc has a broad expertise in capital markets, asset management and alternative investments across geographies and holds an Executive MBA from INSEAD.

Olivier Maurice, Managing Partner

Olivier Maurice is the co-founder and Managing Partner of SYZ Capital. With over 15 years of professional experience of which a decade in alternative investments, Olivier leads the firm’s indirect investments efforts, and is a member of the Executive and Investment Committee. Prior to co-founding SYZ Capital, Olivier was Head of Business Development and a member of the Executive and Investment Committee at ACE & Company, where he contributed in the rapid growth of the business.

Prior to that, Olivier was a Partner at Brennus Asset Management, mainly active in European convertible bonds and other equity-linked credit instruments. Previously, Olivier worked as a senior analyst for Signet Capital Management in London, where he oversaw the European hedge fund portfolio Olivier started his career in audit at KPMG and private wealth management at Societe Generale in Switzerland.

Olivier holds a Master of Science in Management from HEC in Lausanne, and a MBA from INSEAD. He is also a CFA charterholder.

¹ According to recent surveys, 79% of investors plan to increase their private equity allocations in 2019, and 62% intend to increase their allocation to private debt.

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Note to the Editor

About SYZ Capital

SYZ Capital is a Private Markets investment and advisory specialist, founded by a group of entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs. Based on a unique approach, SYZ Capital offers privileged access to attractive investments in Private Equity, Private Debt and Real Estate with a recognized expertise in financing solutions and capital structuring.

SYZ Capital is an entity of SYZ Group, a family-owned award winning financial group with a global footprint. SYZ Group has a solid capital base and benefits from being privately held and independent. With a long expertise in investment management, SYZ Group offers sustainable, best-in-class investment solutions to private and institutional investors.

About SYZ Group

Founded in 1996 in Geneva, SYZ is a Swiss banking group experiencing strong growth, focusing exclusively on asset management via four complementary business lines: high-level private banking, institutional asset management, independent managers and private markets. SYZ offers private and institutional investors an investment style based on active management and risk management aimed at absolute performance. The Group has substantial equity and enjoys its status as an independent company due to its family shareholding structure.

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