

PRESS RELEASE
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Sentica Partners holds EUR 113 million closing on its new buyout fund

Private equity investor Sentica Partners has completed a EUR 113 million closing on its new Finnish lower-mid-market-focused buyout fund, exceeding its original target of EUR 100 million. The Sentica Buyout III fund has received commitments from new investors in Finland and abroad.

More than 15 limited partners have committed to the fund, with around one-third of the total capital raised coming from European-based funds of funds.

"We have been working systematically in order to develop our operation and sharpen the focus on buyout investments. We have also aimed at expanding our investor base outside Finland. We are extremely pleased to have received such a strong level of support from our existing investor base, as well as from some high-quality new investors," states Mika Uotila, managing partner of Sentica Partners.

The fund's first investment in the IT service sector

The Sentica Buyout III fund typically invests in companies with an enterprise value in the range of EUR 15-50 million and targets equity investments of EUR 5-15 million per transaction. According to the fund's investment strategy, the investments are focused on companies with substantial growth potential through internationalisation or new strategic focus, with sector restructuring opportunities in fragmented industries, or with possibilities to operate successfully as spin-offs of larger corporations.

Sentica Buyout III has just made its first investment, in a transaction that will merge two Finnish IT service providers, Descom Oy and Integware Oy. The service offerings of both companies are based on IBM software technology and complement each other. Through the fund Sentica Partners owns 70 per cent of the new company, which will operate under the name Descom. The remaining 30 per cent is owned by key individuals from the merging companies.

As an IBM Software Premier Business Partner, Descom will focus on tailor-made e-commerce solutions and system integration solutions. According to Sentica Partners, the company has excellent opportunities to become the leading e-commerce partner in Finland by growing the operation both organically and through acquisitions. In 2009 Descom will generate net turnover of some EUR 10 million and it employs 100 people.

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Sentica Partners

Sentica Partners is a Finnish private equity investor that focuses on buyout investments in lower mid-market companies. Sentica

manages assets to generate attractive financial returns for its investors by combining solid industrial know-how with sound financial expertise. The funds under Sentica's management amount to some EUR 185 million. www.sentica.fj