

Paris, 30 April 2018

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **BNP Paribas Asset Management launches BNP Paribas Novo 2018 business loan fund**

Following the success of its Novo 1 fund, launched in 2013, BNP Paribas Asset Management ('BNPP AM') announces the launch of BNP Paribas Novo 2018, a new business loan fund<sup>1</sup> for institutional investors. The fund has the backing of the FFA<sup>2</sup> and the CDC<sup>3</sup>, and aims to provide new sources of financing to help French medium-sized companies<sup>4</sup> expand.

BNP Paribas Novo 2018 builds on the success of the previous business loan funds managed by BNPP AM and could invest EUR 264 million over the next three years, as its clients remain committed to financing the French economy.

The fund will invest through Euro Private Placements ('Euro PPs') or direct loans to finance ambitious projects, primarily by French medium-sized companies. The investment period has already begun, with an initial transaction in the recent bond issue from Groupe Pierre et Vacances-Center Parcs, the European leader in holiday villages and residences.

Capital raised from institutional investors in the fund will be deployed according to a rigorous investment process, with selection based on each project's credit quality and environmental, social & governance (ESG) criteria.

BNP Paribas Novo 2018 is managed by BNPP AM's Private Debt & Real Assets team, that includes around 50 investment professionals based in Paris, London and New York and has a track record in business lending dating back to 2006.

### **David Bouchouca, Head of BNP Paribas Asset Management's Private Debt & Real Assets investment group, comments:**

"We are proud to have launched the Novo range of funds for financing French SMEs and medium-sized companies, and proud that our clients have once again placed their trust in us. This is consistent with our status as a benchmark player in private debt, with more than EUR 7.5 billion of assets under management. The launch of BNP Paribas Novo 2018 demonstrates our steadfast presence alongside companies seeking alternative financing. It also confirms the ongoing commitment of insurance companies and institutional investors for this asset class."

- ENDS -

Investments in the fund are subject to market fluctuations and the risks inherent in investing in securities. The value of investments and the income they generate may rise as well as fall, and investors may not fully recover their investment. The fund described above has a risk of capital loss. For a more complete definition and description of the risks, please refer to the prospectus."

<sup>1</sup> BNP Paribas Novo 2018 is a French Fonds de Prêt à l'Economie ('FPE')

<sup>2</sup> Fédération Française de l'Assurance (French Insurance Federation)

<sup>3</sup> Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (French public sector investment fund)

<sup>4</sup> French medium-sized companies are defined as those with between 250 and 5,000 employees and turnover of below EUR 1.5 billion



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### **About BNP Paribas Asset Management**

BNP Paribas Asset Management is the investment management arm of BNP Paribas, one of the world's major financial institutions. Managing and advising EUR 569 billion of assets as at 31 December 2017, BNP Paribas Asset Management offers a comprehensive range of active, passive and quantitative investment solutions covering a broad spectrum of asset classes and regions. With more than 700 investment professionals and around 600 client servicing specialists, BNP Paribas Asset Management serves individual, corporate and institutional investors in 70 countries around the world. Since 2002, BNP Paribas Asset Management has been a major player in sustainable and responsible investing. For more information, please visit [bnpparibas-am.com](http://bnpparibas-am.com), or follow us on



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