

London, 5 June 2018

CODE Investing enters into strategic partnership with BNP Paribas Asset Management to originate SME loans

CODE Investing announces that it has entered into a long term strategic partnership with BNP Paribas Asset Management ('BNPP AM') as part of the development of BNPP AM's SME Alternative Financing platform. BNPP AM will invest in loans to small businesses originated through CODE Investing, the UK's institutional marketplace for SME debt.

As an origination partner to BNPP AM, CODE Investing will provide direct lending access to unsecured SME loans of between £500,000 and £5 million. Under the leadership of Stéphane Blanchoz, SME Alternative Financing offers BNPP AM's client base differentiated and unique access to SME lending as an asset class. The platform is currently operational in the UK, with plans to deploy across other markets in Continental Europe.

BNPP AM joins a wide range of institutions on CODE Investing's lender panel, highlighting the increasingly important role alternative finance platforms are playing in stimulating the real economy.

Stephane Blanchoz, Head of SME Alternative Financing at BNP Paribas Asset Management said:

"Given the structural shift in the way that SMEs access financing, we are very pleased to have entered into a partnership with CODE Investing as part of the development of our SME Alternative Financing franchise. As BNPP AM expands its SME lending capability in the UK and in Continental Europe, the partnership will be key in originating loans to enable us to provide clients with an attractive investment offering."

Ayan Mitra, CEO and Founder of CODE Investing said: "Accessing finance has traditionally been a lengthy and frustrating process for SMEs. CODE aims to deliver a more streamlined, certain, and user-friendly experience to SMEs in search of growth capital. With our emphasis on institutional – rather than retail – lenders we believe CODE's marketplace will ultimately be able to provide SMEs with an aggregate view of financing available to them in the market."

"Our institutional partners are able to directly access SME debt more efficiently and in greater volume without compromising their internal lending preferences and credit criteria. We are delighted to be selected by BNPP AM as one of its first origination partners for the SME Alternative Financing platform and look forward to contributing to its success over the coming years."

-ENDS-

Enquiries

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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 on assets of EUR 568 billion (as at 31 March 2018), 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 500 investment professionals and around 400 client servicing specialists, BNP Paribas Asset Management serves individual, corporate and institutional investors in 72 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 www.bnpparibas-am.com.

About CODE Investing: CODE Investing is the UK's institutional marketplace for small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) debt, connecting qualified businesses to a network of traditional and non-traditional lenders. CODE Investing's platform qualifies and matches SMEs against the individual credit criteria of its institutional partners, enabling creditworthy businesses to access the capital they need in weeks rather than months. CODE Investing offers SMEs an efficient, cost effective, and transparent way to borrow through a variety of instruments, having facilitated £47 million in lending through its platform to date.

CODE Investing is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (No. 627852) and is a member of the UK Business Angels Association (UKBAA).

To find out more, visit www.codeinvesting.com.