

**February 2008**

## **Lyceum Capital Closes New Fund on £255 Million**

- **First fund since Lyceum's MBO**
- **25% over target**

Lyceum Capital today announced the final closing of its new fund, Lyceum Capital Fund II, at £255 million, more than 25% over its target of £200 million. The fund will invest, alongside management, in mid-sized UK-headquartered service companies. Lyceum specialises in building small and medium-sized companies in fragmented markets into significant, quality businesses, by investment in strategic innovation, technology and add-on acquisitions that accelerate growth in size and market presence.

This is the first fund that Lyceum has raised since its buyout in May 2006. Since then, Lyceum has completed 16 acquisitions [2 new Platform acquisitions and 14 add-on acquisitions] and successfully exited four investments - realising in aggregate £216 million for investors in addition to earlier realisations of Southern Cross and Asquith Schools for £225 million.

The new Fund attracted investment from 22 institutions and family offices in the UK, US and continental Europe, including AXA Private Equity, GIMV, AP2, AlInvest, F&C Group and EIF. Six of the investors were in Lyceum's previous fund and 16 are new investors.

Philip Buscombe, Chief Executive of Lyceum, commented, "We are pleased to have exceeded our fundraising target with the continued support of current investors and a number of leading private equity investors from the UK, US and Europe who are investing with Lyceum for the first time. We are seeing an increased flow of opportunities and continue to enjoy strong support from our banking partners. "

Since 2000, Lyceum Capital has consistently used consolidation strategies to accelerate the growth and development of leading mid-market service companies, primarily headquartered in the UK, acquiring some 43 companies in healthcare, education, outsourcing, social housing services, technology and industrial services.

"AXA Private Equity has worked with Lyceum Capital since 2003 and we are delighted to be a substantial investor in both the previous and the new funds." Said Vincent Gombault, Member of The Executive Board at AXA Private Equity.

Atlantic-Pacific Capital acted as placement agent for the fundraising, Macfarlanes provided legal assistance and PricewaterhouseCoopers financial assistance.

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**NOTES:**

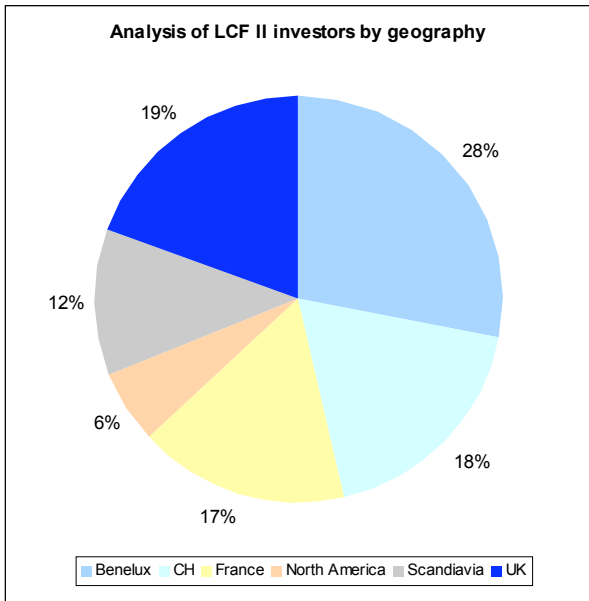
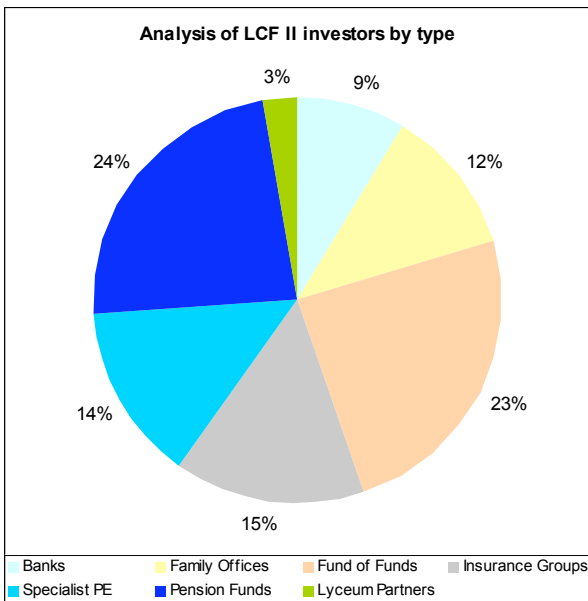
Lyceum Capital is a leading mid-market investment firm that acquires UK platform SMEs alongside management valued and builds them into significant businesses through consolidation strategies – using investment in strategic innovation, professionalization, technology and add-on acquisitions to accelerate growth in size and market presence.

Lyceum recently completed the acquisition of two new Platform companies; Synexus Clinical Research Plc (Pharmaceutical Research Services) in an £18 million public-to-private transaction and SPI (Social Housing Services).

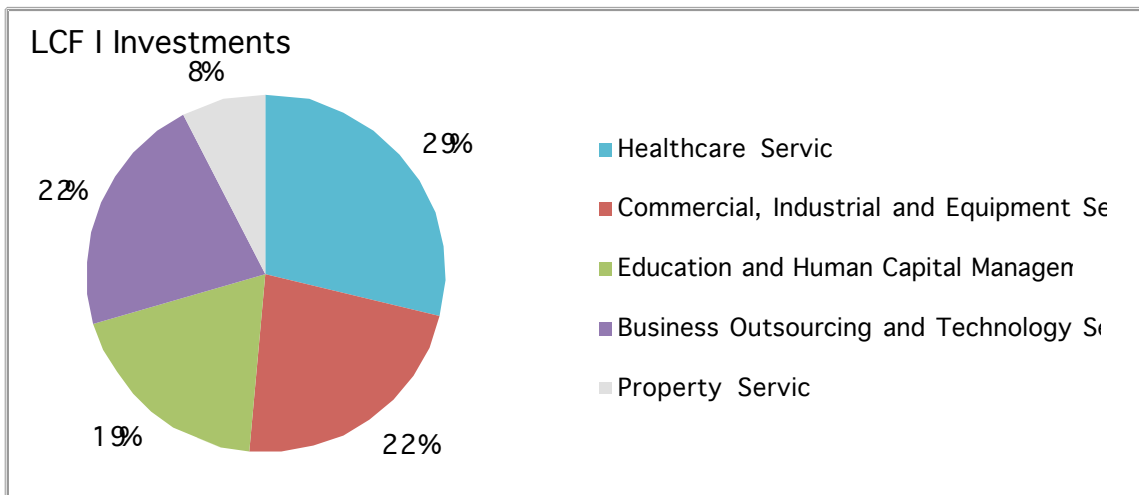
Since 2000, Lyceum Capital has acquired and developed 43 companies for ten Platform groups, including Southern Cross, the UK’s largest elderly care group that is now listed; Asquith, one of the UK’s largest private education groups; Clinovia, a leading home healthcare company, now part of BUPA; National Britannia Group, a leading health & safety and environmental compliance services group, now part of Connaught Plc; Coperion, the global market leader in application technology and services for the plastics, chemicals and minerals industries; and SPI, which provides maintenance and support services for the social housing sector.

In its two funds to date, Lyceum Capital has raised some £500 million of equity capital dedicated to support development of SME’s, primarily in the United Kingdom.

Some LCF II statistics:



LCF I – was invested at cost in:



The business of Lyceum Capital was formed in 1999 and was renamed Lyceum Capital when the firm became fully independent in 2006, with the support of its founding Investors, AXA Private Equity, Alpinvest, GIMV and European Investment Fund. The firm is owned by its Partners including its investment committee: Dan Adler, Andrew Aylwin, Philip Buscombe, David Harland and Jeremy Hand, and in addition has a number of specialist Industrial Partners. Lyceum Partners, with experience from prior firms Investcorp, Duke Street, 3i and numerous industrial companies have acquired more than 60 platform companies, achieving realised returns of 3.9x capital invested and IRR of 44%.

Lyceum Capital Partners LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

For further information, please visit: [www.lyceumcapital.co.uk](http://www.lyceumcapital.co.uk).