

News Release

The Carlyle Group acquires The Sniffers, a Belgian emission monitoring service provider to the global oil and gas industries from Creafund

Company has tripled in size in past four years and is poised for continued growth

London, 22nd December 2011 – Global alternative asset manager The Carlyle Group announced today that it has acquired The Sniffers, a Belgian provider of emission monitoring and related services to the global oil and gas industries, from majority owner Creafund. Creafund and The Sniffers' management team will continue as minority owners. Equity for the investment comes from Carlyle Europe Technology Partners II. Terms of the transaction, which closed on 21st December 2011, were not disclosed.

Founded in 1991, The Sniffers is one of the largest providers of fugitive emission monitoring outside the United States and has a premier market position in Europe and the Middle East. Fugitive emission monitoring is the detection of gas or vapour leaks from pressurized equipment during the oil refinery process. These leaks can be a significant proportion of total refinery emissions and generally occur through valves, pipe connections, mechanical seals and related equipment. The Sniffers has more than 200 customers in 20 countries. The Sniffers' success is built on its proprietary analysis software.

Vladimir Lasocki, Managing Director of The Carlyle Group, said: "The Sniffers combines unique expertise and experience, strong market positions across Europe and the Middle East with a strong sustainable business model. We have been particularly impressed by the high quality of their service and the talent of their management team, and we look forward to supporting the continued growth of The Sniffers."

Johan Heirbrandt, Partner at Creafund, said: "As the fugitive emission monitoring market shows great potential, we welcome Carlyle's support of The Sniffers continued international expansion into new markets and broadening the company's specialized services offering."

Rudy Van Baelen, CEO of The Sniffers, said: "We are exceptionally proud of our performance over the past two decades. The Sniffers has trebled in size over the past four years thanks to a strategy focused on innovation and international expansion and its outstanding employees under the leadership of COO Hans Hooyberghs. We expect Carlyle's global resources, international network and sector expertise will bring new opportunities, synergies and resources, which will help propel us forward as we continue to expand and enhance our service offering. This is a unique opportunity for us to continue our growth and expand into new markets."

Alongside Carlyle's participation, The Sniffers' founder Rudy van Baelen remains a significant shareholder. In addition, several key managers also participate as shareholders in the deal. All historical shareholders, including Creafund are re-investing in the company and will participate in the Board moving forward.

Equity for this investment comes from Carlyle Europe Technology Partners II (CETP II), a €530 million fund that closed in November 2008. Since 2002, Carlyle's European Technology team (CETP team) has invested in 26 companies, supporting their growth, expansion and business transformation initiatives. The Sniffers is the third investment of the CETP team in Belgium following earlier investments and successful exits in both Transics International and FRS Global.

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Notes to Editors

Advisors

Financial: BDO

Legal: Stibbe – in association with Herbert Smith, Gleiss Lutz

Commercial: Estin

About The Carlyle Group

The Carlyle Group is a global alternative asset manager with \$148 billion of assets under management in 89 active funds and 52 fund of fund vehicles as of September 30, 2011. Carlyle invests across four segments – Corporate Private Equity, Real Assets, Global Market Strategies and Fund of Funds Solutions – in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South America. Carlyle has developed expertise in various industries, including: aerospace, defense & government services, consumer & retail, energy, financial services, healthcare, industrial, technology & business services, telecommunications & media and transportation. The Carlyle Group employs more than 1,200 people in 33 offices across six continents. Web: www.carlyle.com; Case Studies: www.carlylegroupcreatesvalue.com; Video: www.youtube.com/OneCarlyle

About The Sniffers

The Sniffers is a Belgian global provider of fugitive emission monitoring and related services, such as flare emission monitoring and pipeline integrity inspections, to the oil & gas industries. Fugitive emission monitoring is the detection of gas or vapour leaks from pressurized equipment during the oil refinery process. These leaks can be a significant proportion of total refinery emissions and generally occur through valves, pipe connections, mechanical seals and related equipment. The Sniffers' success is built on its proprietary analysis software. The company's goal is to complete projects safely, efficiently, cost competitively and with no impact on the environment.

Founded in 1991, the company has more than 200 customers, is currently active in more than 20 countries and employs more than 120 people. The company is headquartered in Balen, Belgium. Web: www.the-sniffers.be.