

Asset management**BCGE – Acquisition of a Swiss institutional management specialist**

Geneva, 21 February 2019 – The BCGE has acquired 100% of the capital of Loyal Finance AG, Zurich, an independent asset management company.

A recognised bond management specialist

Loyal Finance AG is an independent asset management company, created in Zurich in 1991, with collective investment management status. The company is a recognised specialist in bond management, working mainly with institutional investors in German-speaking Switzerland. Through this transaction, the shareholders and teams involved with Loyal Finance AG wish to ensure the development of their company by joining forces with a major institutional player on the Swiss market.

A tiered acquisition

To begin with, 60% of the shares are being transferred to the BCGE, with the 40% balance being transferred after a 4-year transition phase. The transaction is subject to approval from the relevant authorities.

An acquisition process which forms part of an overall plan

Institutional management is one of the bank's most historical functions. With CHF 12.7bn worth of managed and administered assets in this market segment as at 30.06.2018, the BCGE is a recognised player, particularly in French-speaking regions of Switzerland. This new partnership will help strengthen relations and customer service at a totally national level.

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BCGE: "made in Geneva" banking solutions

A universal bank since 1816, the BCGE provides high-quality banking services for private, business and institutional clients in Geneva and its surrounding area. The BCGE offers the following bank services: everyday banking facilities, private banking, asset management, investment funds, pension planning, mortgages and lending to the private and public sectors. It runs a trading room and offers financial engineering, business valuation and transmission, private equity and trade finance services. The BCGE Group has 21 branches in Geneva and operates a number of its services in Lausanne, Zurich, Lyon, Annecy, Paris, Dubai and Hong Kong. It employs 811 people (representing 761 full-time equivalents as at 31 December 2018). The BCGE is quoted on the SIX Swiss Exchange, the Swiss stock exchange (Authorised share no. 35 049 471) and is rated A+/stable/A-1 by the rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P).