

Wellington Partners strengthens its presence in Asia

- Jeanne-Marie Gescher becomes the first China-based Venture Partner
- Growing importance of the entire region for European start-ups

London / Munich, 08 November 2011. Opening a new chapter in its history of helping companies develop into global leaders, Wellington Partners has now retained an Asia-based Venture Partner. High-profile advisor Jeanne-Marie Gescher will support the Technology portfolio to ensure their business prospects and strategies incorporate the fast-growing importance of East-Asia and China in particular. Having moved to Beijing 22 years ago, Jeanne-Marie is perfectly situated to guarantee that the entrepreneurs are connected with the relevant players in their respective fields, in Beijing and beyond.

In 1989, Jeanne-Marie founded one of the first private advisory firms in China, acquiring a reputation for highly effective strategic work. Successfully positioning global clients in a range of industries, from the first internet communications to natural resources, the firm went on to create robust analytical and knowledge frameworks to support corporate positioning and decision-making in one of the fastest-changing economies in the world. Since 2009, she has become an advisor to an expanding portfolio of CEOs seeking counsel on strategic and practical responses to the fundamentals driving China's continued growth.

Jeanne-Marie Gescher about her new role: "I am looking forward to working with the Wellington team and all the entrepreneurs to put China and the region firmly on the Wellington map - its opportunities and its challenges - and to ensure that the portfolio businesses are strongly positioned for global success. The Venture Program allows me to leverage my experience by working together with some of Europe's most outstanding entrepreneurs and to follow my own business activities at the same time."

Jeanne-Marie Gescher is the 15th Venture Partner of the Technology team and the first in Asia. All Venture Partners advise and support portfolio companies in their areas of expertise, on strategic planning, key executive hires and provide a crucial network for business development.

Wellington General Partner Bart Markus explains: "In the past five years, the importance of Asia and above all China has grown rapidly. In particular, in the cleantech sectors our portfolio companies have, for years, been establishing their production in mainland China and collaborate with suppliers from the region. Increasingly, however, it is becoming important for these companies to market their innovations in China. As a result, we spend more and more time in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Adding Jeanne-Marie to our trusted advisor network will greatly expand our ability to help our portfolio companies access these markets."

About Wellington Partners

Wellington Partners is one of the most successful pan-European venture capital firms. With some € 800 million under management and offices in London, Munich, Palo Alto and Zurich, the firm invests in companies throughout Europe that have the potential to become global leaders, in the areas of Digital Media, Cleantech, Electronics, Software and Life Sciences.

Since 1998, Wellington Partners has invested in more than 100 European companies, including now publicly traded Actelion and XING and privately held companies like Adconion, Alando (acquired by eBay), Ciao (acquired by Microsoft), Enecsys, Glo, Qype and Spotify. For more information please visit www.wellington-partners.com.

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