

Ecus Private Equity launches Ecus Renewable Energy Fund (“Ecus REF”), a US\$ 100 million fund focused in renewable energy investments in Chile

Santiago, October 21st, 2014 – Ecus Private Equity, a local, dedicated and independent funds manager with vast experience in the Chilean small and middle market is currently fundraising for its latest vehicle, Ecus Renewable Energy Fund. The Fund, structured as a close-end regulated public fund, has a target of US\$ 100 million and expects to reach a first closing in Q1 of 2015, complementing the seed capital of US\$ 7 million already provided by AXA Group.

Ecus REF aims to form a well-diversified portfolio of investments in the Chilean renewable energy sector, targeting technologies such as solar photovoltaic, thermo solar, small hydro, wind, and biomass, with a marginal allocation to combined cycle LNG. Investment prospects in this sector are driven by:

- Chile's lack of fossil fuel energy sources and heavy dependence on expensive imported fossil fuels
- Increasing energy demand driven by the mining activity and the population's economic development
- High energy prices of 170 US\$/MWh (among the highest in the World) and expected long term prices of at least 100 US\$/MWh
- Country's exceptional natural conditions for renewable energy generation
- Growing attractiveness of NCRE projects driven by pro-investment regulation and decreasing investment costs

Ecus REF already has a clearly identified deal flow and expects to deploy its capital within the next 2–3 years. The Fund aims at providing an annual cash flow and a net IRR of 14%, with significant upside potential depending on crude oil and energy prices.

About Ecus Private Equity

Ecus Private Equity is a joint venture between Ecus Capital Partners and Ardian (ex-AXA Private Equity), one of the world's leading private equity investment firms. Its team was formed in 2006 to launch AXA Capital Chile, a multi-sector fund aimed to target investments in high-growth sectors still relatively underdeveloped in Chile.

In order to take advantage of the ample potential detected in some of the most relevant industries in Chile, Ecus has created a new generation of sector specific funds. This was how in 2012 Ecus Private Equity launched Ecus Agri-Food, a unique sectorial fund aiming at adding value to the Chilean agricultural and aquacultural production and now, in 2014, Ecus responds to the growing need of equity investments in renewable energy generation by launching Ecus Renewable Energy Fund, which will leverage on Ecus' proprietary deal flow and its team's expertise.

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