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Via Venture Partners leads DKK 500 million investment in Neas Energy for further growth

Via Venture Partners and ATP strengthen the capital position of the international energy asset company Neas Energy A/S, based in Aalborg, through the acquisition of a minority stake and a debt injection with a total value of DKK 500 million. The consortium consisting of Via Venture Partners and ATP takes approximately 30% ownership (Via Venture Partners approx. 18% and ATP approx. 12%) and ATP in addition provides a loan of DKK 250 million.

“Neas Energy has experienced significant growth and developed into a market leader since the current owners acquired the company in 2011. We are very happy that the investment will enable Neas Energy to continue the international expansion. We see the investment of Via Venture Partners and ATP as an endorsement of our company and the future potential of our business,” says Bo Lynge Rydahl, CEO of Neas Energy.

Neas Energy is uniquely positioned to benefit from the development of energy asset management

Neas Energy employs more than 200 people in Aalborg, Stockholm, Hamburg and London. The company operates on 18 power and gas markets in Europe and has a portfolio of 6,668 MW installed capacity under management from customers in renewable and thermal energy generation.

“We trust Neas Energy has the right combination of talent, systems and knowhow to expand substantially in the European energy market the coming years. Via Venture Partners has with great success assisted other portfolio companies in international expansion and we intent to inspire the management in Neas Energy with our learnings,” says Peter Thorlund Haahr, Investment responsible Partner in Via Venture Partners. Peter Thorlund Haahr will join the board of Directors in Neas Energy.

Current shareholders welcome Via Venture Partners and ATP

“We are pleased that Via Venture Partners and ATP share our strong belief in Neas Energy and are looking forward to working closely together with them in supporting the company in its further international expansion”, says Eigild B. Christensen, Chairman of the Board, Neas Energy.

Ulrik Dan Weuder, head of ATP’s infrastructure investments, says: “We are pleased to be able to co-invest in Neas Energy together with Via Venture Partners. ATP is interested in both debt and equity investments in companies that we expect to produce good returns to our members. Co-investing with Via Venture Partners is

one way of providing ATP access to attractive direct company investments, as it was also the case in the KMD and Nets investments.”

The final transaction is conditional on approval from the relevant authorities. The transaction is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2015.

Carnegie Investment Bank and Bruun & Hjejle acted as advisers to Neas Energy and its owners in the transaction. FIH Partners and Kromann Reumert advised Via Venture Partners.

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About Neas Energy

Neas Energy is an independent energy asset management company that provides physical and financial optimization of renewable and conventional energy assets operating on energy markets in Europe. Based on more than 15 years of experience from liberal energy markets Neas Energy today has activities in all major energy markets in Europe. Neas Energy's headquarter is located in Aalborg, Denmark and it has offices in London, Hamburg and Stockholm.

About Via Venture Partners

Via Venture Partners is a leading private equity fund in the Nordic region, which focuses on technology and service companies. Via Venture Partners Fund I & II K/S are both subsidiaries of ATP, which has contributed with 99.8% of the equity in the two funds, which is DKK 2 billion in total. The remaining capital is invested by Via Venture Partners A/S' employees. Via Venture Partners A/S is the management company for the funds. Via Venture Partners invests either alone (primarily in small and medium-sized companies with revenue of DKK 75 – 750 million) or together with its Limited Partner ATP (primarily bigger deals).

About ATP

ATP is a mandatory pension saving scheme in Denmark and has 4.9m members. At the end of 2014, 943,500 pensioners were receiving ATP Livslang Pension (Lifelong Pension). At the end of 2014 ATP's net assets amounted to DKK 704bn. More than 85 per cent of ATP's investments are managed internally.