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MATRIX PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS INVESTS £4.25 MILLION IN AUTOMATED SYSTEMS GROUP

Matrix Private Equity Partners (Matrix), the small buyout specialist, has invested £4.25 million in the management buyout of Automated Systems Group Ltd (ASL), a leading provider of reprographic and print solutions to SMEs and the education sector. Matrix is taking a significant minority stake in the business which has annual revenues of over £10 million. Yorkshire Bank Corporate & Structured Finance has provided a £3.5m debt package.

Based in Cambridge, ASL was established in 1991 and has developed a strong geographic presence providing printing and copier services to schools and SMEs primarily in East Anglia, London, Essex and the Midlands. The company employs 70 staff and supplies the latest printing hardware technology and ongoing service and maintenance services to over 4,000 customers.

Matrix has introduced Clive Parritt as non-executive Chairman of ASL. Parritt is a qualified accountant, will be President of the ICAEW in 2011 and is also Chairman of Matrix investee companies, DiGiCo and BG Group.

Guy Blackburn, investment manager at Matrix who joins the Board of ASL as non-executive director comments: "ASL is an excellent platform to pursue a 'buy and build' strategy in the sector. The core business is well established and profitable and has an excellent reputation with its customer base and in its region. The management team are proven operators with a strong acquisition track record. We intend to further consolidate our regional strength by making select acquisitions and believe an enlarged group will eventually be an attractive target to some of the larger national players looking to expand their geographic reach."

Mark Garius, managing director of ASL comments: "We were impressed with Matrix's understanding of our business. They have a fantastic reputation as a solid financial partner and we look forward to working with them and expanding the business through follow-on acquisitions."

Mike Selina, director with Yorkshire Bank Corporate & Structured Finance led the team with Seth Vaughan, associate director. Mike Selina added: "ASL is a prime example of a good business coming to market and attracting the support of both private equity and bank funding. The nature of ASL's business provides it with a robust cash flow and it has the support of a loyal, well spread customer base that rates the service it provides highly. In Matrix we have a partner with the ambition and ability to support the growth of the business organically and via acquisition."

Law firm Birketts LLP acted for Matrix Private Equity Partners LLP on the MBO. This was the firm's first instruction for Matrix and demonstrates the depth of resource and expertise of their private equity team. The deal was led by partner Adrian Seagers, supported by Lynn Aung, in Birketts' Cambridge office. Seagers comments: "We're very pleased to have represented Matrix. ASL is a great business with ambitious and skilled management and we wish it every success."

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Notes to editors:**Matrix Private Equity Partners LLP ['Matrix']**

Matrix is a leading VCT Manager in the UK and has a focus on MBO transactions. Matrix advises four Income & Growth VCTs with £120 million Funds under Management. Matrix is a stable, experienced team with an excellent record of realisations. In recent years, eight separate cash realisations have been achieved by Matrix, returning £41.5m, a 3.1 X multiple of the £13.3m cost. They are Holloway White Allom (5.2x), BBI (3.3x), Ministry of Cake (2.5x), Ruskin (3.0x), Apollo Lifts (3.0x), Gyro (3.0x), Tottel (4.0x) and Pasta King (3.2x).

Since 2004, Matrix has raised over £85m for its Income & Growth VCTs. Matrix Private Equity Partners LLP has 16 staff and is jointly owned by its management team and Matrix Group.

Matrix Group

Matrix Private Equity Partners LLP is part of Matrix Group, a privately owned financial services business in the UK with around £4 billion of assets under management and more than 240 professionals employed across three divisions: Asset Management, Investment Banking and Property. Since inception in 1987, Matrix has raised over £14 billion of assets for investments across these business areas.

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Birketts Information

Birketts LLP is a long-established and highly successful law firm with offices in Ipswich, Norwich, Cambridge and Chelmsford offering a comprehensive range of legal services to businesses, institutions and financially independent private clients. Having 52 partners and a total headcount in excess of 350, Birketts LLP is large enough to provide specialist skills in most areas of the law but small enough to maintain a personal service.