

## **Abris Capital Partners exits its investment in the Polish waste management group, Novago sp. z o.o., to China Everbright International Limited**



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### **NOVAGO sp. z o.o., one of CEE's leading waste-to-energy groups in Poland, has been acquired from Abris Capital Partners by China Everbright International Limited ("CEI")**

Established in 1992, Novago is the #1 waste management platform in Poland; present throughout the entire value chain of the municipal waste market. The company's activities include municipal waste treatment, waste recycling, the production of alternative fuel RDF (refuse-derived fuel), the production of electricity and heat in CHP facilities, landfilling and waste collection. The company has developed six technologically-advanced production sites, treating over 890 thousand tons of waste in 2015. Novago is also the quantity and quality leader in the production of high-calorific RDF from municipal waste, and the leading supplier of alternative fuels to cement plants in Poland. Abris acquired a majority interest in Novago in early 2013.

The acquisition of Novago by CEI is a groundbreaking transaction. The transaction represents the largest single Chinese investment made in Poland to date, and the largest acquisition in the environmental treatment industry in Central & Eastern Europe.

Michał Dąbrowski, Vice-President of the Management Board of Novago said: "Abris' strong support and strategic input helped us gain new heights and, as a result, Novago became stronger in every aspect. Now, in partnership with such an experienced new shareholder as China Everbright International Limited, we feel a renewed enthusiasm for the future. Together, we have the technical expertise and the resources to further strengthen our market leadership position."

Mr. Chen Xiaoping, CEO of Everbright International, said, "This acquisition serves as an important platform for Everbright International's overseas development strategy and a solid foundation with strategic significance laid for future expansion in the Eastern European market. The business can be further expanded by integrating the Group's advanced waste-to-energy technology and Novago's abundant local expertise. Moreover, Novago's success can be brought back to China for replication. We believe the common management philosophy and development plan we share with Novago will facilitate future cooperation and create a tremendous amount of synergies from this transaction."

Wojciech Jezierski, Investment Director at Abris, added: "Novago has been a prime example of the type of initiatives we pursue with our portfolio companies, and I am proud of the shareholders' value that we have created over the last 3 years of consistent development of this asset. In CEI, we found the best possible partner for Novago in terms of commitment towards a sustainable future, in addition to having the financial resources necessary to exploit the enormous development potential of the company. Our mission in Novago has come to an end and I wish the new owners and the management team of Novago further success. I believe the company has an exciting and prosperous future."

A photograph of an industrial facility, likely a waste-to-energy plant, with large metal structures and pipes. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange banner at the bottom.

**#1 Polish Waste Management Platform**

## **About China Everbright International Limited ('CEI')**

CEI is one of the largest and most successful environment protection companies in China, operating through four major segments: environmental energy, environmental water, greentech and environmental technology. In the environmental energy segment, CEI is mainly focused on the waste-to-energy ("WTE") business, being the top leading WTE investor in Asia with a designed waste processing capacity of approx. 13.8mn tons per annum, which is able to generate annual on-grid electricity of 4.1bn kWh (as of December 31, 2015). CEI is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange with a market capitalization of HKD 37.1bn (over EUR 4.2bn) as of June 14th 2016.

## **About Abris Capital Partners**

Abris is an independent mid-market private equity firm focused on the leading countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Funds managed by Abris seek to invest in companies across the region, targeting businesses with established market positions and the clear potential for further growth. Abris invests across a wide range of industrial and commercial sectors and has developed a particular expertise in partnering with the types of successful local, entrepreneur-led businesses which can be found in CEE's mid-market segment.

The transaction is conditional upon the issuance of merger clearance by the Polish Office of Competition and Consumer Protection.

Advisers involved in the transaction include:

- For Abris: Pekao Investment Banking (M&A), Norton Rose Fullbright (legal), Deloitte (commercial, financial, tax), Ramboll Environ (environmental)
- For China Everbright International Limited: Lazard (M&A), CMS (legal), BCG (commercial), KPMG (financial and tax)