

Michel Francois Clerin, *Chairman*

NOVA CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL, LLC

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Former Managing Director of Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Bankers Trust, Paribas Bank; Economic Advisor to the Moroccan Ministry of Energy and Mining; Counselor to The Egyptian Ministry of Privatization; Consultant for the European Union; Advisor to the Ministry of Energy of China and Russia.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NOVA CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL, LLC, Brussels, Belgium

Chairman

Nova Capital is an investment bank boutique and corporate financial advisory firm specializing in equity financing for private and public micro-cap companies (market capitalization less than \$300 million).

Nova Capital's industry expertise includes financial services, FinTech, BioTech, BioPharma, renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, mining and natural resources, oil and gas, and real estate. Nova Capital and its predecessor companies have been the lead investment bankers in the equity financings of over 70 public and private micro-cap and small-cap companies (and projects), successfully completing private equity placements totaling over \$2.2 billion during the last 20+ years. Nova Capital's advisory services include investment banking, corporate finance, M&A, reverse mergers, and private equity placements.

DIPLOMATIC WORLD, Brussels, Belgium

Senior Economist and Editor

Diplomatic World is an international economic, business, and art events publication.

FINANCIERE EOS, Paris, France

Board Member

Financière EOS is a French hospitality company. It is involved in hotel mergers and acquisitions and restructuring of hotels. It advises a Kuwaiti family in their equity investments in hotels in Europe.

EUROPEAN UNION (E.U.), WORLD BANK, Brussels, Belgium

Economic Consultant

China-Shanghai: Set-up of a J.V. Guarantee Fund: European Union-China Enterprise Reform Project.

Algeria: E.U. contract: restructuring of an Algerian investment bank.

Tunisia: European Investment Bank contract: set up of a Venture Capital Fund.

Serbia: E.U. contract: Advised the Ministry of Privatization on its streamlining.

Congo: World Bank assignment to streamline the Congolese Trade Ministry.

London: Earthport (funds transfer company): raised £10 million equity from private equity funds.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES and PRIVATIZATION-US AID PROJECT, Cairo, Egypt

Senior Investment Banker

Implemented the process of preparing 12 Egyptian companies for Privatization (valuations, information memoranda, bid documents, tender, sales contracts).

Roadshows to targeted Strategic Investors in Turkey, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Qatar, and Bahrein.

EUROPEAN UNION (E.U.), Casablanca, Morocco

Project Manager for a \$150 million SME's Development Programme

Formation of a Venture Capital Fund with the European Investment Bank.

Set-up of a Guarantee Fund: a J.V between the European Investment Fund and Moroccan banks.

Provided access to medium-term bank financing for SMEs through the creation of an Industrial Bank.

Restructuring of \$40 million for European Union SMEs Financing Programs.

Advisor to the Ministry of Energy and Mining.

FLORIDIENNE, PARIBAS BANK, Belgium; Hong-Kong, China.

CEO of the Chinese operation

\$10 million Paribas Bank financing of an agro-food factory in the province of Guangxi (China).

Advisor to Chinese Ministry of Energy: Restructuring of a Cadmium factory in Hunan.

Set-up of a Beijing-based biotech food laboratory.

Sale of a Belgium snooker ball factory to a Chinese company.

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY (now Deutsche Bank), London; Houston; Moscow (Russia)

Energy Department Managing Director

Supervision of a \$4 billion Credit and Equity Energy Portfolio.

Advisor to the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation for a Privatization Platform.

Build Operate Transfer (BOT) project finance for a 400,000 tons/year polyethylene factory in Russia.

Treasury management for two Energy Eastern European companies.

MERRILL LYNCH, LTD, London; New York

Investment Banking Department; Managing Director

M&A, IPO's, and ADR's for companies based in Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Portugal, Monaco.

Management of the short-term assets and currency derivatives of the Ministry of Finance of Belgium.

Advisor to Privatization for the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Portugal.

\$500m sale and leaseback of railway equipment from the Belgium railway company to a Danish company.

GULF CONSULTANTS LTD (DUBAI); JV WITH CHARTERHOUSE BANK (U.K.),

Operated in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and South Africa.

General Manager

Feasibility studies, arranged co-financing with: the Industrial Bank of Kuwait, the Arab Guarantee Corporation, the Arab Fund, the OPEC Fund, APICORP, and the Saudi Investment Bank.

Advised Arabian Gulf-based investors on Acquisitions in Egypt, India, Lebanon, and South Africa.

Secured four (\$100m - \$250m) building contracts for Belgium, French, and German companies.

BANK OF AMERICA, (BofA), San Francisco, London, Kuwait

Deputy General Manager (DGM)

San Francisco: Credit Department.

London: Foreign Exchange & Treasury Advisor to Multinational British companies.

Kuwait: Deputy General Manager of the Investment Fund: BofA—the Financial Group of Kuwait.

LANGUAGES

English, French, Dutch, and Spanish

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago - **Master of Business Administration**

University of Louvain, Belgium - **Master in Economics**

University of Louvain, Belgium - **BSc**