



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Axia Ventures Group and Houlihan Lokey Europe have been jointly engaged to act as the exclusive strategic advisors to the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund ("HRADF")**

*Athens, Greece - December 21 2011* - Axia Ventures Group ("AVG") together with Houlihan Lokey Europe ("Houlihan Lokey") have been appointed to act as exclusive strategic advisors to the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund ("HRADF").

As part of this appointment, AVG and Houlihan Lokey will assist the HRADF in the development of a strategy for the implementation of the privatization programme of the Hellenic Republic as foreseen by the Medium Term Fiscal Strategy 2012-15.

Alexandros Argyros, Managing Director and Head of the Investment Banking Division of AVG, stated: "We are delighted to have been mandated for such a critical role, and look forward to supporting the HRADF as it seeks to meet its targets under the Medium Term Fiscal Strategy".

Max Ziff, Managing Director and Global Head of Sovereign Advisory at Houlihan Lokey commented: "By combining our Sovereign Advisory and Financial Restructuring expertise with AVG's local knowledge and understanding we hope to put the HRADF in the best possible position to meet its ambitious objectives."

**About Axia Ventures Group Ltd**

Axia Ventures Group ("AVG") is a privately-owned investment banking boutique providing financial advisory and capital market-related services to corporate and institutional clients. AVG is headquartered in Nicosia, Cyprus, regulated by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (License No: 086/07) and fully licensed to provide financial advisory services in significant financial markets around the world. AVG is focused in Greece, Cyprus and the broader region. AVG has presence in Athens (Branch), New York (subsidiary) and also maintains a representative office in London. For more information on AVG and its services, you can visit the AVG website at <http://www.axiavg.com/>

**About Houlihan Lokey**

Houlihan Lokey is an international investment bank with expertise in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, financial restructuring, and valuation. The firm is ranked globally as the No. 1 restructuring advisor, the No. 1 M&A fairness opinion advisor over the past 10 years, and the No. 1 M&A advisor for U.S. transactions under \$1 billion, according to Thomson Reuters. Houlihan Lokey has 14 offices and more than 800 employees in Europe, the United States and Asia. The firm serves more than 1,000 clients each year, ranging from closely held companies to Global 500 corporations. For more information on Houlihan Lokey, you can visit the Houlihan Lokey website at <http://www.hl.com/>

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**ENDS**

(444 words)

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