PRESS RELEASE

Incofin Investment Management and Triodos Investment Management take a joint 36% stake in MDO Arvand LLC, Tajikistan

Antwerp/ Zeist, September 4, 2014 – Incofin Investment Management’s Rural Impulse Fund II (RIF II) together with Triodos Microfinance Fund (TMF) and Triodos Fair Share Fund (TFSF), funds managed by Triodos Investment Management, have taken a joint significant minority stake of 36% in the Tajik Microcredit Deposit-taking Organisation Arvand LLC. The investment of both partners will primarily be used to fund the geographical expansion and the diversification of the institution’s range of financial services in the rural areas of Tajikistan.

**Largest Microfinance Institution in Tajikistan**

MDO Arvand LLC is the third largest microfinance institution in Tajikistan in terms of outstanding loan portfolio. It is offering a range of financial services, primarily in the Northern Sughd region of the country and in the region around Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. The institution shows a strong social commitment reflected across the whole organization, demonstrated by responsible lending procedures, a dedicated social responsibility management and systematic reporting on social performance indicators.

**Realizing further growth**

Incofin Investment Management (IM) and Triodos Investment Management, as internationally reputed social investors, are looking forward to working closely together with Arvand’s existing participants, Frontiers LLC and Microcredit Fund MicroInvest, and the management of MDO Arvand LLC in order to realize further growth and to support the company in fulfilling its social mission. To this effect, Incofin IM and Triodos Investment Management will both take up board positions in Arvand’s Board of Directors. In addition, Technical Assistance projects will be geared towards further capacity building, increasing the organization’s geographical outreach and expanding the range of financial products offered.

For the execution of the transaction, the investors were assisted by CMS Cameron McKenna LLP and the Tajik legal practice Akhmedov, Azizov & Abdulhamidov, Attorneys.   
  
Welcoming the new shareholders, Ulugbek Khusanov, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of MDO Arvand LLC, said: *“It is a great honor for Arvand to welcome international investors entering into the capital of the organization. With this investment, Arvand increases not only the capital base, but also attracts international experience and expertise by involving highly experienced banking and social finance professionals to the Board of Directors. We are confident this will help Arvand to continue to play a leading role in the development of micro entrepreneurship, by providing tailor made and innovative products.”*   
  
Edwin Zimmermann, Private Equity Manager at Incofin IM and responsible for this RIF II investment, added: *”We are pleased to contribute to the further sustainable growth of MDO Arvand LLC and to support the organization in its mission to improve the livelihood of population in Tajikistan through the delivery of suitable microfinance products and services.”*

Caspar Sprokel, Manager Equity at Triodos Investment Management said: “This is an exciting first equity investment for Triodos Investment Management in Central Asia. We are very much looking forward to be part of Arvand’s continuing journey to expand its outreach, especially in the rural areas of Tajikistan, and to further diversify its financial services.

(End of press release)

\* \* \*

About Rural Impulse Fund II & Incofin Investment Management

Rural Impulse Fund II is a USD 160 million fund that was launched in 2010. The fund aims at contributing to the alleviation of poverty in rural areas by investing in MFIs that have a strong presence in these rural regions. The Fund is advised by Incofin Investment Management, a fund advisor of microfinance investment funds striving to achieve balanced social and financial returns. Incofin Investment Management has 8 funds/facilities under management totaling more than USD 500 million and offices in Belgium, Colombia, India, Kenya and Cambodia. More information is available on [www.incofin.com](http://www.incofin.com).

About Triodos Investment Management

Triodos Investment Management is a wholly owned subsidiary of Triodos Bank, one of the world’s leading sustainable banks. Triodos Investment Management is a globally recognised leader in impact investing, managing investment funds in different sustainability themes ranging from renewable energy, sustainable real estate to inclusive finance in emerging markets, with combined assets of EUR 2.5 billion at year-end 2013. Since 1994, its assets under management in inclusive finance have increased to over EUR 550 million, making it one of the leading investors in the industry. Through specialised funds Triodos Investment Management provides finance – both debt and equity - to 112 upcoming and well-established financial institutions in 44 countries. They hold equity stakes in 22 financial institutions; senior staff of Triodos Bank joins the Board of Directors and actively contributes to the governance of these institutions. For more details please visit [www.triodos.com](http://www.triodos.com)

About MDO Arvand LLC

Limited Liability Company Microcredit Deposit-taking Organization "Arvand" - started its activity since July 2008, as a result of the successful implementation of the transformation process of the Microloan fund "MicroInvest", a nonprofit organization aimed at eradicating poverty, which became the principal founder of the Company. For more details please visit [www.arvand.tj/en/](http://www.arvand.tj/en/).   
  
Contact details:

For more information about RIF II and Incofin IM:

* Michiel Sallaets – Communications Manager Incofin Investment Management

[michiel.sallaets@incofin.com](mailto:michiel.sallaets@incofin.com) / +32 3 829 25 66

For more information about Triodos Investment Management:

* Gera van Wijk, Communications Specialist Triodos Investment Management

[gera.vanwijk@triodos.nl](mailto:gera.vanwijk@triodos.nl) / +31 30 693 6590

For more information about MDO Arvand LLC:

* Shahnoz Ikromi – Business Development Director LLC MDO “Arvand”

[shahnoz.ikromi@arvand.tj](mailto:shahnoz.ikromi@arvand.tj) / +992 3422 40079