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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **BNP Paribas Asset Management signs agreement with Fundion to originate SME loans in the Netherlands**

BNP Paribas Asset Management ('BNPP AM') announces that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Dutch alternative lending platform Fundion as part of the continued expansion of its SME Alternative Financing capability in the Netherlands.

Fundion is a fintech SME loan origination and servicing platform that offers easy access to the Dutch lending market, enabling investors to build SME loan portfolios. It was founded in 2017 by CEO Art van Bruggen, together with specialist fintech lending IT provider Topicus, and Credion, the Netherlands' largest nationwide network of specialised SME debt advisors.

BNPP AM's SME Alternative Financing platform sources loans through its origination partners which are distributed to institutional investors. The partnership with Fundion provides BNPP AM with access to Credion's network of more than 100 SME debt advisors, as well as enabling it to benefit from Fyndoo, Fundion's IT platform. Fyndoo is an advanced rule-driven system that includes high-end risk management models and credit acceptance criteria. This includes applicable KYC checks performed by Fundion in compliance with BNPP AM's global standards.

Present in the Netherlands since 2018 through its partnership with Anglo-Dutch credit specialist Caple, BNPP AM completed its first loan there in February 2019. The SME Alternative Financing platform focuses on senior, unsecured, fixed rate, amortising loans of between EUR 500,000 and 5 million.

**Stéphane Banchoz, Head of SME Alternative Financing at BNPP AM, comments:**

"We selected Fundion as they offer easy access to the Dutch SME lending market through their association with Credion. Our partnership with them will allow us to build on our existing loan origination capabilities in the Netherlands and enable us to further diversify our SME loans offering for our institutional clients."

**Art van Bruggen, CEO and Co-founder of Fundion, comments:**

"Fundion is very pleased to be partnering with a professional and reliable business such as BNPP AM. By offering unsecured lending we go beyond traditional financiers, and together with their advisers and banks we can ensure that the ambitious growth plans of SME entrepreneurs can be financed."

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## PRESS CONTACTS

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### About BNP Paribas Asset Management

BNP Paribas Asset Management is the asset management arm of BNP Paribas, one of the world's foremost financial institutions, and offers high value-added solutions to individual savers, companies, and institutional investors. It has a broad range of skills in four investment divisions: Equities, Fixed Income, Private Debt & Real Assets, and Multi-Asset, Quantitative and Solutions (MAQS). Sustainability is at the heart of BNP Paribas Asset Management's strategy and investment decision-making process, making an active contribution to energy transition, environmental protection and the promotion of equality and inclusive growth. Its aim is to achieve long-term sustainable investment returns for its clients. BNP Paribas Asset Management has assets under management of EUR 436 billion\* (as at 30 September 2019), more than 520 investment professionals and almost 500 client servicing specialists, serving individual, corporate and institutional clients in 69 countries.

For more information about BNP Paribas Asset Management, please visit [bnpparibas-am.com](https://bnpparibas-am.com). For more information about BNP Paribas Asset Management's SME Alternative Financing platform, please visit [smealternativefinancing.bnpparibas-am.com](https://smealternativefinancing.bnpparibas-am.com).

\* EUR 589 billion of assets under management and advisory as at 30 September 2019.

### About Fundion

As a fintech platform, Fundion offers institutional investors the opportunity to invest in SME loan portfolios in a simple and transparent manner. Thanks in part to the cooperation with independent advisors, including the national network of Credion, Fundion offers institutional investors a unique distribution network. The employees of Fundion are all professionals with a lot of experience with SMEs and real estate financing. In addition to assessing the credit application, Fundion carries out KYC checks in accordance with the relevant rules for international financial institutions. In combination with the IT solutions from Topicus, Fundion's financing products are easy to request for SMEs and their advisors. Fundion's IT platform also supports our credit specialists with high-quality risk models and tooling. Together with our partner Credion, we thereby increase the financing options for entrepreneurs.

For more information please see [www.fundion.nl](https://www.fundion.nl).