

Press release

Friday November 8, 2019

STOA Infra & Energy (“STOA”) acquires a strategic equity interest in GSEZ Ports SA (“GSEZ Ports”) in Gabon

STOA and GSEZ Ports are pleased to announce STOA’s acquisition of a minority equity investment (10%) in GSEZ Ports SA, owner and operator of the bulk multipurpose New Owendo International Port (“NOIP”), and major logistics player in Gabon.

The New Owendo International Port is a landmark bulk multi-purpose port with a nominal capacity of 4 million metric tons, located at Owendo, 27 km south from the Gabonese capital city Libreville. The port is mainly dedicated to the export of finished and semi-finished products including liquids, fishery products and goods from the dynamic Gabonese wood industry (veneer, plywood, furniture, etc.).

The port covers an area of 164 ha and is composed of a 690-meter-long loading/unloading platform, 5 liquid storage tanks with a capacity of 10,500 tons each, 2 grain silos with a capacity of 10,000 tons each, and a state-of-the-art logistics zone, including warehousing facilities and refrigerated areas.

The port offers a comprehensive logistic solution through a multi-modal platform with a privileged access by sea, road and rail.

The development of the NOIP by GSEZ Ports is an initiative of its shareholder, Gabon Special Economic Zone (“GSEZ”), a joint venture created in 2010 between Olam International Ltd., the Republic of Gabon, and Africa Finance Corporation with a mandate to develop infrastructure, enhance industrial competitiveness and build a business-friendly ecosystem in Gabon. Since its inception, GSEZ has been developing high-impact infrastructure projects in the country, namely: (i) the 1,126 ha GSEZ Special Economic Zone of Nkok, counting more than 142 investors, from 19 countries, operating in 17 industries and serving a fully vertically-integrated timber industry, (ii) the GSEZ Mineral Port, a state-of-the-art bulk terminal supporting the development of the local mining industry, (iii) Libreville Airport’s management since October 2018, (iv) GSEZ Infras project with the deployment of electrical power lines and water supply networks (v) and the New Owendo International Port.

Commenting on the transaction, STOA’s CEO, Charles-Henri Malecot notes: *“We are proud and thrilled to invest in GSEZ Ports, owner and operator of a large-scale and high-impact infrastructure, alongside a strong and experienced infrastructure partner, GSEZ, supporting Gabon’s ambition build a vigorous industry less and less dependent on oil. STOA is eager to build a long-term alliance with a partner with whom it shares common values, notably the goal to create durable jobs and foster the sustainable development of Gabon in a shift away from the oil industry.”*

Gagan Gupta, CEO of ARISE -GSEZ’s parent company- added: *“We are pleased to welcome STOA as a strategic partner to participate in our continuous efforts to keep developing key infrastructure supporting Gabon to grow and diversify its economy.”*

The investment in GSEZ Ports represents the fifth investment of STOA after only two years of existence as an emerging markets’ infrastructure investor.

Marie-Laure Mazaud, STOA’s Deputy CEO, highlighted the strategic interest of this investment for STOA: *“This transaction, STOA’s first in a port asset and in the transport sector in general, will be key in achieving STOA’s ambition to invest at least 300 M€ in the African continent by 2023. STOA is looking forward to helping the scale-up of GSEZ Ports and its objective to improve quality of service to the increasing number of vessels and cargo ships coming to and leaving Gabon.”*

About STOA

STOA is a joint stock company (*société anonyme*) with a share capital of EUR 240,000,000, 83.3% owned by Caisse des Dépôts ("CDC") and 16.7% owned by Agence Française de Développement ("AFD"), the object of which is to invest up to EUR 600,000,000 in equity and quasi equity in developing and emerging countries in the infrastructure and power sectors. STOA benefits from the complementary support and expertise of its two shareholders. Caisse des Dépôts is a public long-term investor serving the general interest and economic development of local areas, AFD is the French Public Development Bank which commits financing to projects in key transition sectors in developing and emerging countries. In the context of their common strategy, these two institutions are fully committed to play a key role in the four material transitions, i.e. the power/environmental, digital, territorial and demographic transitions.

To learn more, visit: www.stoainfraenergy.com

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About GSEZ

GSEZ is a subsidiary of Arise Holding, a pan-African infrastructure and logistics solutions company developing ecosystems committed to make Africa thrive.

In Gabon, GSEZ is a solid joint venture between Olam International, The Republic of Gabon and Africa Finance Corporation, and a leading economic player in the national and regional industrial landscape and has been developing a new generation of large-scale infrastructure projects since 2010.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.gsez.com/>

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