



## PRESS RELEASE

---

### **ANIMA Holding: acquisition of an 80% stake in Castello SGR**

- **ANIMA intends to accelerate growth in the market for alternatives investments with the acquisition of Castello SGR in a continuation of ANIMA's history of achieving growth also through acquisitions**

Milan, 27 February 2023 – ANIMA Holding signed a binding agreement for the acquisition of an 80% stake in the share capital of Castello SGR S.p.a. ("Castello"), a leading company in the promotion and management of alternative investment products focused on real estate, based in Milan. The consideration is €60 million, to be paid entirely in cash.

Following the close of the transaction, funds managed by Oaktree Capital Management, L.P. ("Oaktree"), the current majority shareholder, will retain a 20% stake in the company (with a put/call option) and board representation. Oaktree's Global Opportunities strategy will also continue to leverage Castello's platform for future real estate investments in the Italian market. The current Chief Executive Officer of Castello will keep the position following the closing.

In partnership with Oaktree, ANIMA intends to grow Castello's existing alternatives platform and enhance its position in the domestic market both through organic growth and strategic M&A.

*"With today's agreement ANIMA begins a growth path in the alternative investments with a project akin to the one that gave origin to the Group in 2009 and which counted on assets of €20 billion back then, becoming over 177 at the end of 2022," commented Alessandro Melzi d'Eril, CEO of ANIMA Holding S.p.A. "We intend to accelerate our presence in the alternatives by benefiting from the experience and successful track record of Castello's management. We believe we can also play an aggregator role with regard to alternative SGRs, thus becoming a leading multi-asset operator in our country; same as we have done and will continue to do in the business traditionally linked to banking distribution."*

*"I am proud of this operation, and I thank ANIMA's top management and the CEO Alessandro Melzi d'Eril for the trust and the quality of the activity carried out together during the past months" comments Giampiero Schiavo, CEO of Castello SGR. "This agreement, with a distinctive industrial value, sets the ground for the creation of a reference Italian player in the market of alternatives' investments with the aim to create further value for all stakeholder and the Country. With the strength of our track record, which we make available to ANIMA, I am sure we can play together the role of aggregator for Alternative asset management companies".*

The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2023, subject to customary regulatory approvals.

ANIMA Holding was advised by Vitale & Co. and Banca Akros as its financial advisors, by Shearman & Sterling on legal matters, by Studio Di Tanno Associati on tax issues, by Daverio & Florio on labor law matters and by KPMG on accounting, fiscal and ESG due diligence. Mediobanca acted as financial advisor and Freshfields acted as legal advisor for Oaktree.

\* \* \*

### **About ANIMA**

ANIMA is a leading Italian independent asset management operator, with around €177 billion of assets under management (as of December 2022). A synthesis of different complementary paths



and specializations, ANIMA nowadays offers one of the largest range of investment solutions available on the market, addressed to institutional as well as retail and private investors. The Group promotes and manages open and closed-end investment schemes, SICAVs, the Arti & Mestieri pension fund as well as private wealth and institutional asset management services. For further information, please visit [www.animaholding.it](http://www.animaholding.it)

#### **About Oaktree**

Oaktree is a leader among global investment managers specializing in alternative investments, with \$170 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2022. The firm emphasizes an opportunistic, value-oriented and risk-controlled approach to investments in credit, private equity, real assets and listed equities. The firm has over 1,050 employees and offices in 20 cities worldwide. For additional information, please visit Oaktree's website at <http://www.oaktreecapital.com/>.

Contacts:

#### **For ANIMA:**

##### **Barabino & Partners**

Tel +39.02.72.02.35.35

Emma Ascani

[e.ascani@barabino.it](mailto:e.ascani@barabino.it)

##### **ANIMA – Investor relations**

Tel. +39.02.63.536.226

Fabrizio Armone

[fabrizio.armone@animaholding.it](mailto:fabrizio.armone@animaholding.it)

#### **For Oaktree:**

##### **Oaktree**

[mediainquiries@oaktreecapital.com](mailto:mediainquiries@oaktreecapital.com)