

## LeadCrest Capital Partners Expands Investment Team and Inaugurates New Paris HQ

**PARIS, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023** – Amid a period of robust growth and several successful closings across Denmark, France, Portugal and Spain over the past few months, LeadCrest Capital Partners (“LeadCrest”) expands its investment team based in Paris with the hire of two new investment professionals, Mr. Diego Vidal Ponte and Mr. Shashank Shekhar.

### Diego Vidal Ponte



Mr. Vidal Ponte joins LeadCrest as an Associate and will lead the sourcing and execution of sale-leaseback and build-to-suit investments across Southern Europe.

Prior to joining LeadCrest, Mr. Vidal Ponte worked for 7 years as an investment professional at Victoria Capital Partners, a leading private equity firm in Latin America, where he analysed and executed private equity investments between US\$45 and US\$450 million across multiple countries in Latin America. During his tenure, Mr. Vidal Ponte participated in transactions across a variety of sectors, including consumer products and services, agribusiness, building materials, healthcare, and education. Prior to that, Mr. Vidal Ponte worked for 2 years at the corporate development team of Cresud (NASDAQ: CRESY), Argentina’s largest real estate developer and operator.

Mr. Vidal Ponte holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (Argentina), the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation from the CFA Institute, and a Master of Business Administration with Distinction from INSEAD (France).

### Shashank Shekhar



Mr. Shekhar joins LeadCrest as an Analyst following a 6-month internship at the firm in 2022 and will further reinforce deal execution across Europe.

Prior to this, Mr. Shekhar pursued internships at firms such as Crown Holdings and Melanion Capital. He has also worked for 2 years in India at Lloyds Banking Group’s Big Data Strategy department.

Mr. Shekhar holds a bachelor’s degree in Engineering specialising in Computer Science from the G.G.S. Indraprastha University (India) and a master’s degree in Management (Grande Ecole) from ESSEC Business School (France).



### **New Offices for an Expanding Team**

“We are fast-growing fund manager with strong ambitions, and we are honoured to continue attracting top talent from the world’s most prestigious business schools” reinforced LeadCrest’s Portfolio Manager Georges Asmar. “At LeadCrest, we want to build a culturally diverse team that brings a wealth of different perspectives to our investment discussions while at the same time ensuring a strong cultural fit with our core markets. I am convinced that Diego’s private equity background will bolster our credit underwriting processes and origination efforts with financial sponsors. During his internship, Shashank has proven his strong analytical skills and entrepreneurial spirit, in line with our firm’s DNA.”

“I am very excited to join LeadCrest and capitalise the positive momentum for the European net lease industry,” expressed Mr. Vidal Ponte. “I believe that sale-leasebacks have become a compelling strategy for both investors and corporates in the current macroeconomic context of rising rates and high inflation expectations, and I am delighted to join what the market considers the first European firm to focus on sale-leaseback in Europe.”

“I am proud to convert my internship into a full-time position!” expressed Mr. Shekhar. “My 6-month internship provided a steep learning curve in investment analysis and deal execution. I am grateful to the investment team for the mentoring.”

Simultaneously to these new hires, LeadCrest has also transferred its Paris operations to 179 boulevard Haussmann, in the 8<sup>th</sup> arrondissement. “Those new office will enable us to grow further as we will be recruiting new team members in the coming months” concluded Mr. Asmar.

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### **About LeadCrest Capital Partners:**

Founded by a team of experts with a global track record, LeadCrest Capital Partners is the first European fund exclusively dedicated to sale-leaseback and build-to-suit investments across Europe. With offices in Luxembourg and Paris, LeadCrest assists its corporate partners in meeting their strategic objectives by funding all their real estate needs. LeadCrest invests throughout Europe in all asset classes – ranging from traditional commercial real estate to highly specific operational properties – with a particular focus on the consumer goods, industrials, healthcare and education sectors.

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