

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Atlantic-Pacific Capital Completes €300 Million Placement for Oakwood Financial**

GREENWICH, CONN. — Atlantic-Pacific Capital, Inc., the largest independent global placement agent for alternative investment funds and direct private placements, is pleased to announce that Oakwood Financial (“Oakwood”) has completed a direct private equity placement transaction which culminates in its’ receipt of a €300 million strategic investment from CIR, a publicly listed Italian investment company, Merrill Lynch, and certain minority investors including Oakwood’s management team. Atlantic-Pacific Capital acted as the exclusive placement agent for Oakwood, an innovative financial asset investment company.

Commenting on the transaction, Michael Culhane, Chief Executive of Oakwood said: “I welcome Merrill Lynch and CIR as investors in Oakwood. I believe that with their support, we are better positioned than ever before to capitalize on opportunities in the market and to further expand the success of Oakwood’s business. Oakwood has a strong track record of developing growth businesses and we now have partners that will allow us to further develop our existing businesses and will enhance our strategic capabilities, as we turn our attention to future investments.”

Rodolfo De Benedetti, Chief Executive of CIR said: “This investment in Oakwood reinforces our strategy of expanding into high growth businesses with the potential of significant value creation. We are impressed by the results reached so far, by the commitment and the drive of Oakwood’s management team, and we are happy to partner with a leading global financial institution like Merrill Lynch”.

### **About Oakwood Financial**

Founded in 2003, Oakwood Financial capitalizes on opportunities in specialist finance markets around the world. To date Oakwood has made five investments in specialist lending businesses in Australia, Italy and the UK. Most recently, the company launched edeus in the UK mortgage market. Oakwood is led by CEO Michael Culhane, a former investment banker in Friedman Billings Ramsay’s financial services group. Mr. Culhane established Future Mortgages, which was sold to Citigroup in 2001, and Pepper Homeloans, now the 3rd largest specialist mortgage lender in Australia. For more information, visit [www.oakwoodholdings.com](http://www.oakwoodholdings.com).

### **Atlantic-Pacific Capital, Inc., Member FINRA and SIPC**

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