

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2 April 2012**

**EkuiNAS Expands its Education Portfolio with Investment in  
Cosmopoint Group**

**Key highlights: -**

- EkuiNAS acquires a 90% stake in Bumiputera-owned Cosmopoint Sdn Bhd (Cosmopoint Group), which owns and operates KL Metropolitan University College (KLMUC) and Cosmopoint International College of Technology (CICT).
- The acquisition sees EkuiNAS investing in a fast growing education group with high potential within the dynamic and expanding Malaysian Private Education Industry to preserve and enhance Bumiputera participation within the sector.
- The investment also provides a platform for EkuiNAS to further expand its education portfolio to five complementary institutions with a combined student population of almost 20,000 and uniquely positions EkuiNAS to establish a leading Malaysian education conglomerate of the future.

**KUALA LUMPUR, 2 April 2012:** Ekuiti Nasional Berhad (EkuiNAS), the government-linked private equity fund management company, is pleased to announce it has completed an acquisition of a 90% stake in Bumiputera-owned Cosmopoint Sdn Bhd (Cosmopoint Group), for a total investment of RM246 million. Cosmopoint Group currently owns and operates KL Metropolitan University College (KLMUC) and Cosmopoint International College of Technology (CICT), a fast growing education group within the Malaysian private education sector with more than 11,000 students across seven faculties.

Founded by Dato' Idrus Mohd Satha in 1991, Cosmopoint Group has displayed a strong track record of delivering revenue and earnings growth. Over the years, the Group's revenue and earnings have grown strongly with audited revenue and earnings for the financial year ended 31 December 2010 reaching RM107 million and RM33 million respectively.

From the first Cosmopoint IT training and education centre in Kuala Lumpur, the business has grown into one of the largest Bumiputera private education groups which owns and operates KLMUC, a highly popular university college in Kuala Lumpur, and CICT which has more than 13 centres nationwide, offering up to 40 different diploma and degree courses in various disciplines

including business management, art and design, tourism and hospitality, engineering and IT. Post Ekuinas' investment, Dato' Idrus will remain as a minority shareholder and continue to provide leadership over the business as it enters the next level of growth.

Ekuinas Chairman, Raja Tan Sri Dato' Seri Arshad Raja Tun Uda said, "We are pleased to undertake the investment in Cosmopoint Group as this provides Ekuinas with a unique opportunity to further expand our education portfolio with the eventual aim of establishing one of Malaysia's leading education groups with a diversified multi-institution portfolio of investments. This is in line with Ekuinas' aspiration to transform high potential Malaysian companies into future market leaders as well as to help enhance equitable Bumiputera participation within the sizeable and rapidly expanding Malaysian private education sector."

Based on analysts' valuation, the Malaysian private education industry is currently estimated to be RM7.2 billion and expected to grow by 9% annually to reach more than RM14 billion by 2015, driven by higher demand as a result of favourable demographics, rising income and increasing number of foreign students. This is consistent with the Government's aspiration of turning Malaysia into an international education hub.

Dato' Abdul Rahman Ahmad, Ekuinas' Chief Executive Officer, added, "KLMUC and CICT are two strong education brands that have well established track records for delivering growth. Backed by an experienced management team, these institutions have created a strong niche and reputation for providing affordable tertiary education across various disciplines."

"These two institutions will complement the existing education institutions under Ekuinas and expand our education portfolio to five institutions with more than 20,000 students and combined revenue of more than RM200 million. This uniquely positions Ekuinas to tap into further opportunities within the private education industry and establish in the future one of Malaysia's largest education groups that serves education needs across all segments," he further added.

Currently, Ekuinas' investment portfolio includes education institutions under APIIT Education Group, namely Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT), Asia Pacific University College of Technology & Innovation (UCTI), and Sapura Smart School. The investment in the APIIT Education Group was undertaken in 2010 when Ekuinas acquired 51% from Sapura Resources Berhad for a total investment of RM102 million.

With this acquisition that was agreed in principle in late 2011 but completed on 31 March 2012, the total committed investments by Ekuinas to date amount to **RM903.4 million**. Together with private co-investments, Ekuinas has facilitated a total economic capital deployment of more than **RM1.0 billion** into the Malaysian economy.

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### **About Ekuinas**

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Ekuinas (Ekuiti Nasional Berhad) is a government-linked private equity fund management company established on 1 September 2009. With the government endowment of RM5 billion under the 9<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan and 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, Ekuinas aims to create Malaysia's next generation of leading companies whilst promoting equitable, effective and sustainable Bumiputera economic participation. To date, Ekuinas has undertaken investments in high potential Malaysian companies involved in the business of fast moving consumer goods, oil and gas, logistics, education and retail.

### **About Cosmopoint Group**

The Cosmopoint Group of Companies was established in the early 1990s when the field of ICT was beginning to experience unprecedented growth and required investment not only in financial terms but also through talented, qualified and intelligent human resources. Today, the Group has successfully carved a niche in the education, training and ICT development industry. For more details, please visit [www.cosmopoint.com.my](http://www.cosmopoint.com.my).

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