



## PRESS RELEASE

### Wise Sgr announces the acquisition of a majority stake in Tatuus, leading chassis manufacturer of racing cars

**Milan, 16 February 2017** – Wise Sgr S.p.A. – on behalf of Wisequity IV closed-ended fund – announces the signing of a binding agreement to purchase a majority stake of **Tatuus Racing SpA**, global leader in the design, manufacturing and sale of racing cars.

The firm was founded back in 1980 by Mr. **Gianfranco De Bellis** and **Artico Sandonà**, who will remain in Tatuus shareholding. The project is aimed at accelerating and strengthening the company development strategy.

In the last 15 years, Tatuus produced more than **1.800 racing cars**, collaborating with **many of the most prestigious brands in the industry**, such as Renault, Toyota, Honda, Abarth, Cosworth, Ford, Volkswagen and Mazda.

Many of the current **Formula1 drivers**, e.g. **Hamilton, Raikkonen, Massa, and Ricciardo**, raced using cars produced by **Tatuus**.

Among the many Tatuus achievements, **Formula 4** cars became and will be the **standard**, especially on a **safety** stand point, for the coming years in the junior categories and they enabled the development of **FIA Formula 4 championships all over the world**. Since 2016, Tatuus have been supplying the **USF 2000 and Pro Mazda** championships, belonging to the **Road to Indy** program **in the USA**.

The strategy of both Wise and the founders is to **continue** along the **internationalization** journey the company is currently following, by **consolidating its positioning** as **preferred partner** for federations and promoters in the junior categories, also through add on acquisitions.

The **transaction** has been led by **Fabrizio Medea, Wise Partner, together with Marco Mancuso, Investment Manager**.

**Fabrizio Medea**, Wise Partner, said: "Wise is proud for having been chosen by such an excellent firm, as Tatuus is, to support it during its development path. The transaction perfectly fits with Wise philosophy and strategy of identifying Italian SMEs, that are leaders in their own segments. In Tatuus we found a combination of deep know how and passion that represents a real distinctiveness".

**Artico Sandonà**, one of Tatuus founders, said: "The achievements of last years allowed us to better see the huge opportunities motorsport offers and I am sure Wise is the perfect partner to help Tatuus in coping with the challenges we are facing moving forward".

**Gianfranco De Bellis**, the other founder of Tatuus, said: "Having known Wise, we are confident to have met a partner that will bring the right mix of product understanding and specific skills that will help the company in unleashing its full potential".

**DVR Capital** with Nicola Gualmini, Stefano Baiardo and Matteo Dreon acted as financial advisor of the deal.

Tatuus have been advised by **LCA Studio Legale** as both legal counsel and tax advisor.

Wise have been advised as legal counsel by **Simmons & Simmons** with Andrea Accornero, Moira Gamba and Nicolangelo del Rosario while **Spada Partners** with Luca Guarna, Paolo Mandelli and Andrea Moretta was the financial and tax advisor.

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#### **Wise SGR**

*Wise SGR SpA (www.wisesgr.it) specializes in the management of Private Equity closed-end funds, investing in small and medium-sized companies, with a special focus on Italy. The funds managed by Wise are typically involved in leverage buy-out and capital increase transactions, dedicated to companies that are leaders in their niche markets. The two major objectives are to lead "build-up" transactions, in order to enhance competitiveness and profitability, and to push the international development. Wise, controlled by the management team, has currently three funds under management: Wisequity II, with total commitment of 170 M€, that is in the divestment process; Wisequity III, with commitment exceeding 180 M€, has now six companies in the portfolio: Alpitour, Biolchim, Colcom Group, Primat, NTC e Controls; Wisequity IV closed the fund raising in March 2016 reaching its hard cap at 215 M€ and already invested in three companies: Corob, Imprima (KBC and Guarisco) and Tapi*

#### **For further information**

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