

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

**PRESS RELEASE****HRADF: Signing of the sale and purchase contract for the development of the property of the former American base in Gournes, Heraklion**

HRADF, a member company of GROWTHFUND – The National Fund of Greece, announces that today, Wednesday, February 15, 2023, took place at the premises of the Fund the signing of the contract for the sale of the property of the former US base in Gournes, Heraklion, with the company REDS S.A., which offered the highest bid in the e-Auction process for its purchase and development.

The signing of the contract was attended by the Minister of Finance, **Christos Staikouras**, the Minister of Development and Investments, **Adonis Georgiadis**, the CEO of HRADF, **Dimitris Politis**, the President of the Board of Directors of REDS S.A. and CEO of the ELLAKTOR Group, **Efthymios Bouloutas**, the CEO of REDS S.A., **George Konstantinidis**, The President of the ELLAKTOR Group, **George Mylonogiannis**, and the Deputy CEO of GROWTHFUND – The National Fund of Greece and member of the Board of Directors of HRADF, **Stefanos Giourelis**.

REDS S.A. emerged as the highest bidder with an improved offer totaling 42,237,679.20 euros. The e-Auction process created a competitive and transparent environment leading to high bids, with the improved offer being 77.8% higher than the starting price, which stood at 22.6 million euros.

The seaside property in Gournes, Heraklion, Crete covers an area of 345,567 square meters, located 13 km from the airport "Nikos Kazantzakis" and 16 km from the city of Heraklion. REDS S.A. will implement investments for the development of a luxury hotel unit, residences and a shopping center. The property also provides for the possibility of developing a casino.

The Minister of Finance, **Christos Staikouras**, stated: *"This is an agreement that reflects the confidence of major corporations in the potential and prospects of the Greek economy and confirms the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Government's planning for the optimal utilization of the country's real estate. The development of the property in Gournes and the investments that are expected to be implemented in the area, will contribute significantly to the further promotion of the tourist image of Crete, leading to the creation of new jobs and the enhancement of the growth of the island"*.

The Minister of Development and Investments, **Adonis Georgiadis**, stated: "From the first day I took over the critical portfolio of the Minister of Development and Investments, I singled out the property in Gournes, Heraklion. I strongly believed from the beginning that it would be a great opportunity for the development of the tourism sector, not only for Crete but for Greece in general. I am very pleased that before the end of my term of office, the process was completed and a very serious company, REDS took over the project, creating the certainty that it will be done properly and on schedule. A new era begins for Crete".

The CEO of HRADF, **Dimitris Politis**, pointed out: *"The development of the property in Gournes, Heraklion, is an iconic project for HRADF, the Municipality of Hersonissos and Crete as a whole. It will make a decisive contribution to regional development, as it will enhance the prospects of the local economy by creating new jobs, stimulating tourism and developing commercial activities. At HRADF we are particularly pleased with the completion of this complex project, given that we worked methodically to determine the land uses of the property, as well as for the maturity and the overall planning for its development. Today's signing of the contract with REDS S.A. is also a testament to the know-how and significant experience that HRADF possesses in completing demanding projects with transparency and quality".*

The Deputy CEO of GROWTHFUND – The National Fund of Greece and member of the Board of Directors of HRADF, **Stefanos Giourelis**, stressed: *"The signing of the contract for the purchase of the property in Gournes, represents another important step in the development of public property. The achievement of this multidimensional goal is at the core of the operation of GROWTHFUND – The National Fund of Greece and its subsidiaries. It is a typical example of creating added value with multiplier effects for the benefit of the national economy, the local community and the promotion of the natural environment. We wish REDS every success in this iconic project".*

The President of REDS S.A. and CEO of ELLAKTOR Group, **Efthymios Bouloutas**, stated: *"Today, the completion of the sale and purchase of the land in Gournes, Heraklion, marks the beginning of the implementation process for the most important tourist and commercial land development in Crete in the recent past and one of the most important developments in Greece. REDS, a subsidiary of the ELLAKTOR Group, adds this project to its portfolio, along with other iconic projects, and in the next five years together with international and domestic investors will complete an investment with a total budget of more than 210 million euros which we believe will generate enormous benefits to the local society and the Greek economy in general".*

For more information and updates, please refer to the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund' s website ([www.hradf.com](http://www.hradf.com)).

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