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### PRESS RELEASE

## NB AURORA DISPOSED THE STAKE IN LIGABUE S.p.A., A HISTORICAL LEADING INTERNATIONAL GROUP IN THE FOOD SERVICE BUSINESS

Inti Ligabue, President and CEO of Ligabue S.p.A., is buying back the stake which was sold to Fondo Italiano in 2016, becoming the company's sole shareholder

# NB Aurora confirms its long-term partnership with entrepreneurs with the aim of creating value for the companies

### Luxembourg, April 27, 2023

**NB Aurora S.A. SICAF-RAIF ("NB Aurora")**, listed in Italy on the Euronext MIV Milan – Professional Segment with the objective of investing in small and medium-sized unlisted companies, announces - with reference to the 44.55% stake held in Fondo Italiano di Investimento ("FII") - that it disposed FII's entire stake (approximately 30.6%, of which about 13.6% held by NB Aurora) in Ligabue S.p.A. ("Ligabue", the "Company" or the "Group").

Ligabue is a historical Venetian company, today among the leading international players in the provision



of catering, procurement, and facility management services for on-shore and off-shore platforms, cruise ships, ferries and merchant vessels, and a leading maritime travel trade operator.

The stake in Ligabue that FII has held since 2016, was acquired by the entrepreneur Inti Ligabue, majority shareholder, Chairman and CEO of the Group, through his holding company Lilux S.r.l.. The total consideration of the transaction is equal to Euro 9.7 million, of which approximately Euro 4.3 million related to the stake held by NB Aurora. With this transaction, Inti Ligabue indirectly becomes the sole shareholder of the company, which thus returns to the hands of the founding family.

Ligabue was founded in Venice in 1919 thanks to the initiative of Anacleto Ligabue, initially to supply food to the ships of the Venetian Navigation Company. In the 1960s, the business expanded by providing catering services to the Oil & Gas sector, particularly on off-shore platforms and on-shore fields, becoming the first catering company in the world to operate in this sector. In recent years Ligabue has significantly developed its cruise business by also becoming a ship owner.

Today, with more than a century of history, Ligabue is present in 16 countries with an international network of 200 business partners in 417 ports. In 2022, the Group recorded a turnover of over Euro 300 million and can count on the collaboration of over 7,000 people from more than 40 nationalities.

**Francesco Sogaro, Managing Director at NB Aurora**, commented: "We are very proud of the growth path that the company has been able to pursue in these years of collaboration; the company has been able to transform the market complexities of recent years into a great opportunity for change, and in 2023 will record a turnover in line with pre-covid levels (with almost a 50% increase compared to the entry date of investment). Today, Ligabue is a strong, international company with great prospects; it is led by an entrepreneur and a cohesive, high quality management team that we are certain will be able to continue along this path. We are therefore pleased to return the company's ownership to Inti Ligabue, whose family has firmly held the reins for over 100 years, proud to have contributed during these years together".

Inti Ligabue, President and CEO of Ligabue S.p.A., added: "This is a milestone for our company. The acquisition of the company's shares from Fondo Italiano ensures a long-term strategy for all the Group's stakeholders. The Ligabue family has always held control of the company, but bringing the ownership back, after almost 40 years, into the sole hands of the founding family confirms our commitment to growth, the solidity of the company, and our vision for the future. I would like to thank NB Aurora, in particular Francesco Sogaro, and Fondo Italiano di Investimento for their irreplaceable support during these difficult years, and all those who have contributed in various ways to the success of



this operation, including Anthilia Capital Partners for the term loan, the arranger of the leverage finance transaction Banca Finint, the advisor Clearwater International and all the company's management.

Please note that NB Aurora and FII are both managed by the same management company, Neuberger Berman AIFM S.à r.l..



#### **NB** Aurora

NB Aurora, the first permanent capital vehicle listed in Italy on the Euronext MIV Milan - Professional Segment, has been created with the purpose to invest in unlisted SMEs, conveying financial resources to support their growth and international expansion, thus helping to support the real economy. NB Aurora is promoted by Neuberger Berman, a private, independent, employee-owned investment manager, with \$427 billion AUM (as of 31 December 2022). The investment target includes topclass SMEs with a leading position in specialized niches and a strong export attitude with a turnover between €30 and €300 million. NB Aurora team operates with an active minority approach, partnering with entrepreneurs with a medium-long term horizon. After the first deal that led NB Aurora to acquire 44.55% of the shares of Fondo Italiano di Investimento (17 initial shareholdings of which it currently still holds the investments in DBA Group, Amut Group and Zeis Excelsa), the fund invested in 11 companies: Club del Sole (leader in the camping-village sector in Italy), Dierre Group (leader in Italy in the production of tech components for industrial automation), PHSE (Italian leader in the temperature-controlled transport of drugs and biological samples), BluVet (network of veterinary clinics), Rino Mastrotto Group (world leader in the production and marketing of leathers for fashion, automotive and furniture industries), Engineering (leader in Italy in the digital transformation of companies, public and private organizations), Veneta Cucine (Europe's leading manufacturer of fitted kitchens) Comet (leader in Italy in the development and production of tailor-made organic rubber and silicone compounds), Farmo (leader in the production of 'better for you' gluten-free products), Exacer (active in the specialty chemicals business through the development and production of catalyst supports) and PromoPharma (specialized in the production and commercialization of food supplements, dietary food and innovative medical devices).

### Ligabue

Ligabue S.p.A. - which celebrated its centenary in 2019 - is one of the world's leading operators in the Food Service and Life Support industry and specialises in services for the shipping and industrial market associated with energy resources.

It was founded in Venice in 1919 by Anacleto Ligabue, forefather of the family of the same name, which has always maintained control of the company, first through Anacleto's son Giancarlo (who died in 2015) and now through his grandson Inti Ligabue, CEO since 2012 and Chairman of the Group since 2016.

Since the end of April 2023, Inti Ligabue has been the sole shareholder of the company.

The Ligabue Group provides catering, supply and facility management services, with various integrated solutions such as housekeeping or maintenance, primarily for maritime operators such as cruise ships, ferries and cargo vessels, but also for companies operating in the Oil & Gas, mining and construction industries, such as off-shore platforms and on shore fields in remote areas. It is present in 16 countries, ranging from Africa to South America and Europe to Kazakhstan, with an international network of 200 business partners in 417 ports, and is renowned for the high quality of its products, together with the care and efficiency of its services for a global supply chain. Its specific and consolidated experience supports over 400 activities every single day, with around 7000 collaborators of 40 different nationalities. After celebrating its centenary in 2019, strengthening its future strategy with the values that have always distinguished the company, in 2020 Ligabue S.p.A. christened the 4-star plus river ship "Lady Diletta". The vessel, built for the Group, will operate alongside the directly managed ships and is destined for its guided the company right from the very beginning: improve the life of people who travel, work or live on the vessels and at the sites that Ligabue serves, with the best welcome, catering and hospitality solutions, and simultaneously contribute to the economic and social development of the communities, regions and countries where the Group operates. These are the values that distinguish Ligabue, which supports, with the aim of gaining knowledge of and respect for populations, the research projects and initiatives of the Giancarlo Ligabue Foundation.

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**JB** AUROR

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