



14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### **AIB leads €167m Smartbox Group Financing**

Smartbox Group, the European champion of experience vouchers and gift cards, has announced the closing of a €167M senior debt financing in which AIB acted as Mandated Lead Arranger and Agent together with Credit Agricole, Credit Suisse and Caixabank.

Since its creation in 2003, Smartbox Group has grown both organically and through acquisitions, to become the European leader in experience vouchers and gift cards with sales of over €500M across 11 countries in Europe. Smartbox Group works with over 38 000 experience providers and distributes experience vouchers and gift cards through 12 000 points of sale as well as online via e-retailers and the company's own branded websites.

Headquartered in Dublin, Smartbox Group announced in June that it will create 100 new jobs as part of future growth in its Dublin office focussed on areas including research and development, customer experience, sales marketing and finance. The company expects its total headcount to exceed 500 by the end of this year.

AIB's Managing Director of Wholesale, Institutional and Corporate Banking Colin Hunt said "We are delighted to be supporting a growing company headquartered in Ireland, which is recognised as a leader in its field. This is an important step in the development of this company which will also benefit the economy."

**ENDS**

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