



FONDATION ENTREPRENDRE



SYCOMORE
ASSET MANAGEMENT

Press release

Sycomore Asset Management supports the Fondation Entreprendre and the values of 'transmission' through its responsible investment fund, Sycomore Shared Growth.

Paris, January 29th 2020 – In a fast-changing world, where some members of society have lost their bearings, the transmission of knowledge guarantees sustainability and helps foster more durable and inclusive economic growth. Sycomore Asset Management and the Fondation Entreprendre have therefore signed a partnership based on the values of 'transmission' - for both professional skills and businesses.

Vocational training not only ensures that French companies can draw on the skills of competent workers, it vastly improves the employability of young people. Supporting company takeovers and creating business in remote or isolated parts of the country can help curtail rural depopulation, and in many cases, save jobs. The Fondation Entreprendre and Sycomore Asset Management have joined forces to address these challenges together. Sycomore has committed to channelling some of the management fees generated by the Sycomore Shared Growth fund in 2020 towards the Foundation, to help run initiatives in support of non-profit associations dedicated to transmission.

The Fondation Entreprendre supports two projects in particular that are aligned with Sycomore Asset Management's ambition to create a positive societal impact via the Sycomore Shared Growth fund.

From learning vocational skills to creating or taking over a company, with the *Compagnons du Devoir et du Tour de France*

With support from the Sycomore Shared Growth fund, the Fondation Entreprendre will help the association to acculturate and train young workers in entrepreneurship during their training course. By the end of 2020, around 5,000 Compagnons will have been given the opportunity to develop their skills as entrepreneurs. Meanwhile, 35 entrepreneurial projects will receive backing from its business incubator.

Creation and transmission of farming businesses in vulnerable areas, with the ARDEAR AURA

The Fondation Entreprendre, thanks to financial backing received from Sycomore Shared Growth, will support the economic and agricultural revitalisation of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes area in Southern France. The ambition for the Foundation in 2020 is to assist 56 people, providing around a hundred hours of coordination time (contacts made with transferor farmers, support given to pairs of transferors-buyers, help with administrative duties), individual coaching and 140 hours of training. With this backing, the ARDEAR AURA aims for the creation of 28 farming businesses and 200 related jobs.

Elisabeth Da Souza, Director – Patronage & Philanthropy, Fondation Entreprendre, said:

"The support provided by Sycomore Asset Management is fundamental in ensuring the success of the initiatives led by the Fondation Entreprendre. In keeping with the spirit of the Sycomore Shared Growth fund - which focuses on high societal impact companies offering solutions to major societal challenges to generate profitable and sustainable growth - we select public interest projects with great care and attention to extend

our impact. Beyond this aspect, the partnership is also a testimony to the commitment and confidence shown by investors in supporting meaningful societal initiatives, such as those backed by the Foundation and aimed at shaking up entrepreneurship”.

Frédéric Ponchon, Portfolio Manager, Sycomore Shared Growth added:

“We chose to support the Fondation Entreprendre as we believe that the organisation’s expertise, professionalism and working methods guarantee that quality initiatives are selected and produce successful results. Furthermore, the search for positive impacts is fully consistent with the philosophy of our fund, Sycomore Shared Growth. By deploying some of the management fees to fund associations running high societal impact projects, our investors can enjoy a true sense of purpose and support tangible actions. We have also chosen to focus our donations on transmission-related initiatives, as we are convinced that investors who are saving with a view to passing on their wealth also wish to pass on a lot more, including values, culture, knowledge and skills...”

About the Fondation Entreprendre

The Fondation Entreprendre has been actively supporting entrepreneurs since 2008. Recognised as a public interest organisation since 2011, it provides financial backing and assistance to associations enabling them to grow, extend their reach and become more professional. Its actions are structured around four programmes: “Coeurs d’Entrepreneurs” supports vulnerable or atypical individuals in their professional endeavours; “Graines d’Entrepreneurs” focuses on raising awareness of entrepreneurship among younger generations; “Des elles pour Entreprendre” is a programme directed at female entrepreneurs; and “Parcours d’Entrepreneurs” assists entrepreneurs wishing to create, develop, take over a business or bounce back after a failure. The Fondation Entreprendre has also enjoyed a “hosting” status since 2015, and has developed a unit dedicated to hosting Foundations for families or individuals wishing to structure and give substance to a charitable project.

About Sycomore Asset Management

Founded in 2001, Sycomore Asset Management is an investment firm driven by a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Since its creation, Sycomore has been committed to delivering long-term returns by identifying the levers that enable a company to generate sustainable value.

The firm’s expertise draws on a fieldwork approach and a proprietary corporate fundamental analysis model, which includes financial and extra-financial criteria. Its team of 21 analysts-fund managers, including 7 ESG specialists (Environment, Social and Governance) focus on assessing the overall performance of a company with respect to its stakeholders: shareholders, clients, employees, suppliers, civil society and the environment.

As a reference and key player in responsible investment, Sycomore AM is continuing its work on quantifying environmental and social in order to build a more inclusive society that will help preserve our planet. The firm is a member of the FIR, the GIIN (Global Impact Investing Network), the IIGCC (Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change) and is actively involved in industry-wide events on the issues of sustainable development.

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