

Press Release

**Banco Desio and Prelios Innovation: strategic partnership
for non-performing loan trading on the BlinkS digital platform.**

Desio - Milan, May 26, 2021 – **Banco Desio**, one of Italy’s most solid banks, and **Prelios Innovation** have signed a strategic partnership agreement for the adoption of **BlinkS**, the digital platform developed by the **Prelios Group** for the trading of non-performing exposures (NPE).

In addition to technical and operational assistance from the Prelios Innovation team that manages BlinkS, the agreement, under which Banco Desio is an NPL and UTP seller, provides for the immediate start-up of operations as well as the extension to other joint initiatives on the Italian NPE market.

Riccardo Marciò, NPL Manager at Desio, said: “We are always looking for opportunities in every sector to make achieving our objectives more effective and simpler. We believe that BlinkS provides us with a dynamic and transparent means to reach a broader range of investors interested in purchasing our distressed loans. In our view, an innovative tool like this is a support for both banks and potential purchasers, by linking the need to reduce stock with greater investment opportunities. This objective is even more important looking to the future.”

“We are excited that Banco Desio, one of Italy’s largest and most dynamic banking groups, has chosen our platform for the digitalization of loan sale processes, thus joining the more than 100 players including over 40 financial institutes currently active on BlinkS,” said **Gabriella Breno, CEO of Prelios Innovation**, the Prelios Group Fintech company. “In the last few years, Italian banks have made great progress in reducing NPL stocks, and we continue to support them with our technology and innovative processes. Given the current difficulties caused by the consequences of the pandemic, banks need new solutions for timely and effective management and deconsolidation of distressed loan portfolios, so that they can take advantage of the possibility offered by the Government to transform deferred tax assets into tax credits.

“Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 on the Italian economy suggests that fresh flows of distressed loans are likely, and for this reason Prelios Innovation is developing new commercial and technological initiatives to make BlinkS the ecosystem of choice for the sale of Italian NPEs. With its characteristics and performance, BlinkS has established itself as a benchmark for the secondary market and is recognized as such by the ECB. Since its launch, approximately 1.7 billion euro of secured and unsecured loans have been traded on BlinkS.”

About Banco Desio

Established in 1909, Banco Desio is a territorial bank that provides solutions for the financing, investment, insurance and pension requirements of households and businesses. It has 243 branches in 10 Italian regions: Lombardy, Umbria, Liguria, Lazio, Piedmont, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Marche and Abruzzo. www.bancodesio.it

About the Prelios Group

The Prelios Group is the gateway to Italian real estate and the leading player in alternative asset management, distressed loan management and highly specialized property services.

With more than 40 billion euro of assets under management and over 10 million square meters of managed property, the Prelios Group provides a complete range of services and skills to manage property portfolios and distressed loans and is the only Italian player with the capabilities to act in every phase of the Italian real estate and economic cycle.

One of the main Italian non-performing loan servicers, Prelios is the first mover in bank unlikely-to-pay credits and the leader in NPL securitization with the GACS state guarantee. With BlinkS (blinks.prelios.com) it has established the first digital NPE marketplace in Italy and one of the first in Europe.

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