



First Frontier and Halyk Finance sign Cooperation Agreement

First Frontier Capital Limited (First Frontier) and JSC Halyk Finance (Halyk Finance) are pleased to announce they have entered into a Cooperation Agreement to promote foreign investment in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

First Frontier is an independent London based investment bank focussed on providing institutional investors with a “one-stop-shop” in respect of the frontier markets globally. First Frontier’s offering comprises origination, research and execution in frontier and pre-frontier markets.

Halyk Finance is the leading investment bank focused on Kazakhstan & Central Asia. Halyk Finance combines deep hands-on knowledge of the local market with the highest standards in execution and provides a full range of investment banking and asset management services. Global Finance magazine named Halyk Finance “The Best Investment Bank in Kazakhstan” in 2011, 2012 and 2014. Its analysts won CBonds Awards for Best Macroeconomics Research and Best Fixed Income Research in 2011 and 2012. Halyk Finance is wholly owned by Halyk Saving Bank of Kazakhstan and is a member of the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange.

In entering into this agreement with Halyk Finance, First Frontier continues its expansion in the high growth frontier and pre-frontier markets, enabling the firm’s clients to receive co-branded research focused on Kazakhstan and Central Asia, trade securities on the local exchanges and have access to local trading flows. In expanding the firm’s presence into Kazakhstan and Central Asia, First Frontier is entering one of the key growth markets in the region that is attracting renewed investor interest.

The agreement with Halyk Finance is the latest in a series of similar relationships that First Frontier is currently putting in place across its universe, in order to provide clients with access to the fast growing frontier and pre-frontier markets and establish itself as the leading frontier markets investment bank.

First Frontier Capital Limited is registered in England Number 08713100, and its registered office is at 9, Bickels Yard, 151-53 Bermondsey Street London SE1 3HA. It is an Authorised Representative of Linear Investments Limited. Linear Investments Limited is registered in England and Wales Number 7330725, and its registered office is at 8-10 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH. It is authorised and regulated by The Financial Conduct Authority (25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS).

Commenting on the agreement, Alexei Yazikov, First Frontier's Head of Research, said: "This is an important milestone for First Frontier and we are delighted to have signed an agreement with such a well-established firm as Halyk Finance. Working with a market leader like Halyk Finance will allow us to deliver an international product with a truly local flavour in one of the key regional capital markets. Halyk Finance's experienced and talented team, strong client-centric culture and efficient and disciplined approach to decision making convinced us that they were a great choice. The combination of Halyk's local market knowledge and First Frontier relationships in international markets will greatly benefit our global client base. First Frontier feels that the opportunity for growth in the country and its capital markets will make this new venture a success for all."

Sabit Khakimzhanov, Head of Research at Halyk Finance: "We are excited about the possibilities of working together with First Frontier. First Frontier has a strong platform for promoting stocks from Kazakhstan and Central Asia. It only makes sense to combine our strengths in order to produce high quality research on-the-ground and deliver it to institutional clients. First Frontier has a proven record of making this business model work, of reaching out across the borders and bringing investment opportunities in faraway markets closer to the European investors."

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