

**For immediate release**

**Monday 22 September 2014**

**Lionel Assant of Blackstone joins Impetus-PEF Board**

**22 September 2014, London, UK:** Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation (Impetus-PEF) today announces the appointment of Lionel Assant to its board of trustees.

As the pioneer of venture philanthropy in the UK, Impetus-PEF transforms the lives of disadvantaged young people by ensuring they get the support needed to succeed in education and employment. It does this by identifying the most promising youth charities and social enterprises and providing them with a combination of long-term funding and sustained strategic advice covering management, governance, financial operations and fundraising.

Lionel Assant is Senior Managing Director and European Head of Private Equity for Blackstone. Since joining Blackstone in 2003, he has been involved in various European investments and investment opportunities. Before joining Blackstone, Lionel worked for seven years at Goldman Sachs in the Mergers & Acquisitions, Asset Management and Private Equity divisions. Lionel graduated from the Ecole Polytechnique with a Master's degree in Economics. He currently serves as a Director of United Biscuits, Tangerine and Intertrust.

**Commenting on his appointment, Mr Assant said:** "Blackstone was one of the founders of venture philanthropy in the UK and I have been personally involved with Impetus-PEF for over two years now. The great thing about Impetus-PEF is that they apply the PE model to the social sector – a pioneering approach which is proven to have far greater impact than simply giving financial help to a charity. I am extremely pleased to be joining the Impetus-PEF board and I am looking forward to contributing to its vision that where you start in life should not determine where you end up".

**Impetus-PEF Chief Executive Officer Daniela Barone Soares said of the appointments:** "I am delighted to welcome Lionel to the Impetus-PEF board. He joins a group of active and highly experienced trustees whose expertise and support is crucial to our work with disadvantaged young people. Our approach is proven to deliver great value for money: for every £1 invested, we provide £3 of value to our portfolio charities so our supporters can be truly confident that their donation will have maximum impact."

**ENDS**

**For media enquiries and interviews please contact Kelly Matthews at [kelly.matthews@impetus-pef.org.uk](mailto:kelly.matthews@impetus-pef.org.uk) or call 020 3474 1007**

**Notes to editors**

**Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation** (Impetus-PEF) transforms the lives of 11-24 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds by ensuring that they get the support they need to succeed in education and employment. It does this by finding the most promising youth charities and social enterprises in the UK and helping them (through a pioneering combination of management support, specialist expertise and funding) to become highly effective at delivering programmes proven to transform the lives of the young people they serve. For more information, please visit [impetus-pef.org.uk](http://impetus-pef.org.uk)