

22 Mar 2012

P. 16

National

Circulation : ABC(Oct 2011-Dec 2011)

Avg Circ : 35558

Net Sales : 0

C.F.D. : 0

Net Distr : 0

Bulk Free : 0


 newsclip  
 managing media intelligence

94mm x 167mm

A.V.E. = R 11,661.53

**4080001-RMB Corvest**

# Shalamuka and RMB Corvest in Fintech deal

**SURE KAMHUNGA**

Financial Services Editor

FIRSTSTRAND's private equity unit RMB Corvest and Shalamuka Capital have, for an undisclosed sum, bought a combined 37% stake in Fintech, one of the largest independent financiers of business technology in SA, it was announced this week.

Shalamuka Capital is the private equity company for the Shalamuka Foundation, a trust formed in 2006 to fund a skills development programme in Mpumalanga and surrounding areas.

The deal comes weeks after RMB Corvest said it was in the market for small and medium bolt-on acquisitions in SA.

The company is also on the prowl for similar investments in sub-Saharan African markets, according to its director Mike Donaldson. He said this week the deal to invest in Fintech would broaden RMB Corvest's already extensive portfolio of investments and also secured an investment in the equipment finance industry.

Established in 1981, Fintech is one of the largest independent financiers of business technology in SA. "By providing a competitive finance solution for equipment rented by its client base, it is one of the leaders in offering specialised partnerships with equipment suppliers," the company said.

Mr Donaldson said the

opportunity to invest in Fintech became available through the retirement of former Fintech CEO, Ian Pennel, last year, which coincided with the unbundling of shares held by Fintech's previous black economic empowerment (BEE) stakeholder Simeka Management Services. This also presented an option to purchase additional interests held by Investec Bank in Fintech.

"RMB Corvest was subsequently invited to participate in the transaction and introduce a new BEE partner, hence our inviting Shalamuka Capital to come on board," Mr Donaldson said.

Another executive at RMB Corvest, Martin Coetzee, said Fintech's continued growth since inception made this an ideal investment opportunity.

"The recent appointment of CEO Glen Christopulo, who has been involved in the company for more than a decade, will not only ensure smooth leadership transition but also enable the implementation of an accelerated strategic growth plan derived from his hands-on insight into the business," he said.

"The business is ready to grow into other products, something which RMB Corvest and Shalamuka Capital look forward to making possible through our collective investment," Mr Donaldson said.

kamhungas@bdfm.co.za