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BOUTIQUE

## Exclusive: Former AAA-rated PM teams up with peers to launch Paris boutique

Experienced trio receives AMF approval to develop new proposition based on return on capital employed.

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Former Citywire AAA-rated Timothée Malphettes (above centre) has teamed-up with partners Michael Niedzielski (left) and Matthieu Bordeaux-Groult (right) to launch ROCE Capital, *Citywire Selector* has learned.

The Paris-based boutique, which takes its name from the profitability score 'Return On Capital Employed', will manage a fundamental, long-only fund that invests primarily in European-listed equities.

The strategy, which will be officially launched in September with €30m of initial capital, will be overseen by lead portfolio manager Niedzielski and Malphettes serving as co-manager.

The duo will implement an active and conviction-based management on a concentrated portfolio that will embrace 30 to 40 holdings.

Bordeaux-Groult will be responsible for the firm's development and operations and will act as chief executive.

Speaking to *Citywire Selector*, Bordeaux-Groult said ROCE Capital will make the most of the European Union's legislative framework, MiFID II.

'MiFID II has expanded opportunities for alpha-seeking stock-pickers by reducing the coverage of small and mid capitalisations in Europe,' he said.

In terms of allocation, the France-domiciled fund will seek returns from all capitalisations, with a strong appetite for small-mid caps, which range from €500m to €10bn.

Lead portfolio manager Niedzielski told *Citywire Selector* that his experience spent at T Rowe Price, where he worked between 2015 and 2020, will inform his day-to-day management. He previously worked on the [T Rowe Price International Discovery](#) fund.

What is more, the portfolio will particularly focus on companies that score high on a 'ROCE' basis, Bordeaux-Groult added. 'We believe that this ratio is too often left behind by investors.'

## Right timing

Niedzielski said the project had been in the works for a couple years, as he met Bordeaux-Groult years ago in the US when they were working at New-York based Exane BNP and Boston-based Fidelity Management & Research, respectively. 'We wanted to implement our idea at the right time,' he said.

Fund manager Malphettes, who was a childhood friends of Niedzielski's, joined the development of the venture early on.

Having witnessed two financial crises, the trio, who are all on the cusp of their forties, felt confident that it was time to combine their experiences across both the buy-side and the sell-side.

Meanwhile, Niedzielski acknowledged this launch is a one-time shot since the trio is raising capital from friends and from their close social circles.

Prior to joining ROCE Capital, Malphettes served as head of equity management at Delubac Asset Management for six years. During that time he ran the [Delubac Pricing Power fund](#), for which he was Citywire AAA-rated in 2017.

He also worked as portfolio manager for Covea Finance between 2010 and 2013, a period during which he was also awarded a Citywire rating. Previously he served as an equity manager for French asset

manager Société Privée de Gestion de Patrimoine.

Bordeaux-Groult has worked in several board roles, notably in equity sales at Exane for a over a decade. He started his career as a financial analyst in French groups Tocqueville Asset Management and KBL Richelieu Gestion.

The investment firm was approved by French authority AMF in April this year.