

March 9, 2015

# Stellus Capital Investment Corporation Reports Results for Its Fourth Fiscal Quarter Ended December 31, 2014

HOUSTON, TX -- (Marketwired) -- 03/09/15 -- Stellus Capital Investment Corporation (NYSE: SCM) ("Stellus" or "the Company") today announced financial results for its fourth fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2014.

### HIGHLIGHTS

(\$ in millions, except data relating to per share amounts and number of portfolio companies)

Portfolio results Total assets	As of December 31, 2014 \$327,1	
Investment portfolio, at fair value	\$316.0	
Net assets	\$173.9	
Weighted average yield on debt investments	10.9%	
Net asset value per share	\$13.94	
	Year	Quarter
	ended	ended
	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2014
Portfolio activity		
Total investments made, at cost	\$98.0	\$39.5
Number of new investments	11	4
Repayments of investments, including amortization	\$54.9	\$5.3
Number of portfolio companies at end of period	32	32
Operating results		
Total investment income	\$32.3	\$8.6
Net investment income	\$16.5	\$3.8
Net investment income per share	\$1.34	\$0.30
Regular dividends declared per share	\$1.36	\$0.34
Net increase in net assets from operations	\$10.2	\$1.0
Net increase in net assets from operations per share	\$0.83	\$0.08
Weighted average shares outstanding during the period	12,281,178	12,477,925

"We are pleased to have completed our second full fiscal year of operations in which we covered our regular dividend through net investment income and realized gains, and paid a special dividend of \$0.065 per share. Additionally, we increased our portfolio by 16% with \$98.0 million of fundings across 11 investments and strengthened our capital base in four ways. In May, we closed a public offering of \$25.0 million of notes. In June, the Small Business Administration approved our application to operate as a Small Business Investment Company. We also established an at-the-market equity issuance program through which we raised \$5.1 million of gross proceeds. Finally, we amended our Credit Facility, which extended the maturity date by approximately two years and reduced the applicable margin rate for LIBOR-based loans," said Robert T. Ladd, Chief Executive Officer of Stellus.

#### Portfolio and Investment Activity

We completed the fourth quarter of 2014 with a portfolio of \$316.0 million (at fair value) invested in 32 companies. As of December 31, 2014, our portfolio included approximately 24% of first lien debt, 32% of second lien debt, 41% of mezzanine

debt and 3% of equity investments at fair value. Our debt portfolio consisted of 44% fixed rate investments and 56% floating rate investments (subject to interest rate floors). The average size of our portfolio company investments was \$9.9 million and our largest portfolio company investment was approximately \$22.9 million at fair value. The weighted average yield on all of our debt investments as of December 31, 2014 was approximately 10.9%.

During the three months ended December 31, 2014, we made \$39.5 million of investments in four new portfolio companies and two existing portfolio companies and received \$5.3 million of proceeds principally from the partial sale of one investment, including \$0.4 million from amortization of certain other investments.

This compares to the portfolio as of December 31, 2013, which had a fair value of \$277.5 million invested in 26 companies comprising 17% of first lien debt, 43% of second lien debt, 38% of mezzanine debt and 2% of equity investments at fair value. As of December 31, 2013, our debt investments had a weighted average yield of 11.4% and consisted of 42% fixed rate investments and 58% floating rate investments (subject to interest rate floors).

#### **Results of Operations**

Investment income for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 totaled \$8.6 million and \$7.7 million, respectively, most of which was interest income from portfolio investments. For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, investment income was \$32.3 million and \$29.4 million, respectively, most of which was interest income from portfolio investments.

Operating expenses, net of fee waivers for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 totaled \$4.8 million and \$3.5 million, respectively. For the same respective periods, base management fees totaled \$1.4 million and \$1.2 million, incentive fees totaled \$0.9 million and \$0.6 million (net of \$0.3 million of fees waived by the manager), fees and expenses related to our borrowings totaled \$1.5 million and \$0.9 million (including interest and amortization of deferred financing costs), administrative expenses totaled \$0.3 million and \$0.2 million and other expenses totaled \$0.7 million and \$0.6 million.

Operating expenses, net of fee waivers for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 totaled \$15.8 million and \$13.4 million, respectively. For the same respective periods, base management fees totaled \$5.2 million and \$4.2 million, incentive fees totaled \$1.7 million (net of \$1.4 million of fees waived by the manager) and \$2.9 million (net of \$1.0 million of fees waived by the manager), fees and expenses related to our borrowings totaled \$5.3 million and \$3.1 million (including interest and amortization of deferred financing costs), administrative expenses totaled \$1.2 million and \$0.9 million and other expenses totaled \$2.4 million and \$2.3 million.

Net investment income was \$3.8 million and \$4.2 million, or \$0.30 and \$0.35 per common share based on weighted average common shares outstanding for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, net investment income was \$16.5 million and \$16.0 million, or \$1.34 and \$1.33 per common share based on weighted average common shares outstanding, respectively.

The Company's investment portfolio had unrealized depreciation for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, of \$2.7 million and \$0.5 million, respectively. The company had no material realized gains for either period.

The Company's investment portfolio had unrealized appreciation (depreciation) for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, of \$(6.5) million and \$0.5 million, respectively. During the same periods, the Company's investment portfolio had realized gains of \$0.4 million and \$1.0 million, respectively.

Our net increase in net assets resulting from operations totaled \$1.0 million and \$3.7 million, or \$0.08 and \$0.30 per common share based on weighted average common shares outstanding, for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, our net increase in net assets resulting from operations totaled \$10.2 million and \$17.5 million, or \$0.83 and \$1.45 per common share based on weighted average common shares outstanding, for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our liquidity and capital resources are derived from our committed credit facility and cash flows from operations, including investment sales and repayments, and income earned. Our primary use of funds from operations includes investments in portfolio companies and other operating expenses we incur, as well as the payment of dividends to the holders of our common stock. We used, and expect to continue to use, these capital resources as well as proceeds from any future public and private offerings of securities to finance our investment activities.

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, our credit facility provided for borrowings in an aggregate amount up to \$120 million and \$135 million, respectively, on a committed basis. As of December 31, 2014, our credit facility had an accordion feature which allowed for potential future expansion of the facility size to \$195 million. On November 21, 2014, we entered into a First

Amendment to extend the maturity date of the credit facility, reduce the margin rate, and reduce the initial aggregate commitments to \$120 million with an accordion feature which allows for potential future expansion of the facility size to \$195 million. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, we had \$106.5 million and \$110.0 million, respectively, in outstanding borrowings under the credit facility.

For the year ended December 31, 2014, our operating activities used cash of \$27.2 million primarily in connection with the acquisition of new investments. For the same period, our financing activities provided net cash of \$15.6 million, primarily from the draws under the SBA-guaranteed debenture program.

For the year ended December 31, 2013, our operating activities used cash of \$68.4 million primarily in connection with the purchase of investments. Our financing activities provided cash of \$19.9 million, which included \$72 million of net borrowings under the credit facility.

#### Distributions

During the three and twelve months ended December 31, 2014, we declared distributions of \$0.34 and \$1.36 per share, respectively. Tax characteristics of all distributions will be reported to stockholders on Form 1099-DIV after the end of the calendar year. None of these dividends are expected to include a return of capital. In addition, we paid a special dividend of \$0.065 per share during the year related to realized gains from 2013.

#### Recent Portfolio Activity

New investment transactions and repayments which occurred during the three months ended December 31, 2014 are summarized as follows:

- On October 21, 2014, we made a \$7.4 million investment in the first lien loan of Hollander Sleep Products, a bed product manufacturer. We also invested \$0.25 million in the equity of the company.
- On October 22, 2014, we made a \$15.2 million investment in the first lien loan of Huf Distribution Corporation, a designer and distributer of apparel. We also committed to fund a \$1.75 million revolver and invested \$0.5 million in the equity of the company.
- On October 23, 2014, we made a \$3.9 million investment in the second lien loan of Zemax, LLC, a provider of optical and illumination design software. We also invested \$0.25 million in the equity of the company.
- On December 31, 2014, we made a \$3.4 million investment in the first lien term loan of EOS Fitness Opco Holdings, LLC, a health club franchise operator in the United States. We also invested \$0.1 million in the equity of the company.
- On October 3 and November 4, respectively, we made follow on investments of \$2.5 and \$4.9 million in the debt of SKOPOS. We also invested an additional \$0.1 million in the company's equity.
- On December 9, 2014, we made a follow on funding of \$1.0 million in the delayed draw term loan of Colford Capital. The \$3.0 million unfunded commitment to this delayed draw term loan expired on December 31, 2014.

#### Events Subsequent to December 31, 2014

Since December 31, 2014, we made two new investments totaling \$16.0 million, two follow on investments totaling \$4.7 million, and received one repayment of \$16.9 million which brings the investment portfolio to approximately \$330 million (at par) and the average investment per company to \$10.0 million at par as of March 4, 2015.

The following changes to the portfolio have occurred since year end:

- The \$7.5 million unfunded commitment to Empirix, Inc. expired on February 1, 2015.
- On February 6, 2015, we made a \$5.0 million investment in the second lien term loan of GK Holdings, Inc.
- On February 12, 2015, we received full repayment on the unsecured term loan of the Studer Group, LLC at par resulting in total proceeds of \$16.9 million.
- On February 19, 2015, we made a \$10.0 million investment in the second lien term loan of NetMotion Wireless, Inc. We also invested \$1.0 million in the company's equity.
- On March 4, 2015, we made an additional \$0.2 million equity investment in Skopos Financial Group, LLC.
- On March 4, 2015, we invested \$4.5 million in the debtor-in-possession financing of Binder & Binder.

#### Credit Facility

The outstanding balance under the Credit Facility as of March 4, 2015 was \$108.0 million.

#### **Conference Call Information**

Stellus Capital Investment Corporation will host a conference call to discuss these results on March 10, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

Central Daylight Time. The conference call will be led by Robert T. Ladd, chief executive officer, and W. Todd Huskinson, chief financial officer, chief compliance officer, treasurer, and secretary.

For those wishing to participate by telephone, please dial (888) 364-3109 (domestic). Use passcode 5971730. Starting approximately twenty-four hours after the conclusion of the call, a replay will be available through March 18, 2015 by dialing (888) 203-1112 and entering passcode 5971730. The replay will also be available on the company's website.

#### STELLUS CAPITAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Dece	ember 31, 2014	Dec	ember 31, 2013
ASSETS				
Non-controlled, non-affiliated investments, at fair value (amortized cost of				
\$321,955,480 and \$277,004,466, respectively)	\$	315,965,434	\$	277,504,510
Cash and cash equivalents		2,046,563		13,663,542
Interest receivable		5,082,665		4,713,912
Deferred offering costs		261,761		205,165
Deferred financing costs		828,956		-
Accounts receivable		696		-
Receivable for affiliated transaction		-		43,450
Prepaid loan fees on SBA Debentures		681,947		-
Prepaid loan structure fees		1,774,630		1,586,405
Prepaid expenses		419,283		411,321
Total Assets	\$ <u></u>	327,061,935	\$	298,128,305
LIABILITIES				
Notes Payable		25,000,000		-
Credit facility payable		106,500,000		110,000,000
SBA Debentures		16,250,000		-
Short-term loan		-		9,000,000
Dividends payable		1,413,983		-
Base management fees payable		1,360,019		1,176,730
Incentive fees payable		1,121,556		1,056,942
Interest payable		346,204		234,051
Directors' fees payable		-		96,000
Unearned revenue		157,403		146,965
Deferred tax liability		288,122		-
Administrative services payable		591,744		263,225
Other accrued expenses and liabilities		83,452		262,878
Total Liabilities		153,112,483		122,236,791
Commitments and contingencies (Note 7)		· · ·		· · ·
Net Assets	\$	173,949,452	\$	175,891,514
NET ASSETS				
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share (100,000,000 shares				
authorized, 12,479,962 and 12,099,022 shares issued and outstanding, as				
of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 respectively)	\$	12,480	\$	12,099
Paid-in capital		180,994,783		175,614,738
Accumulated undistributed net realized gain		-		1,027,392
Distributions in excess of net investment income		(779,643)		(1,262,659)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and cash				
equivalents, net of provision for taxes of \$288,122 and \$0 as of December				
31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively		(6,278,168)		499,944
Net Assets	\$	173,949,452	\$	175,891,514
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	327,061,935	\$	298,128,305
Net Asset Value Per Share	Ψ <u></u> \$	13.94	 \$	14.54
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STELLUS CAPITAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS** 

		For the year ded December 31, 2014		For the year ded December 31, 2013	(/	om Inception May 18, 2012) through December 31, 2012
INVESTMENT INCOME						
Interest income	\$	31,637,094	\$	27,995,486	\$	3,696,432
Other income		687,753		1,405,250		-
Total Investment Income		32,324,847		29,400,736		3,696,432
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Management fees	\$	5,202,990	\$	4,242,608	\$	527,034
Valuation fees		384,957		497,228		184,500
Administrative services expenses		1,195,566		883,050		103,482
Incentive fees		3,122,890		3,816,840		-
Professional fees		744,547		649,863		734,365
Directors' fees		374,509		350,000		109,439
Insurance expense		482,963		468,046		79,279
Interest expense and other fees		5,315,325		3,123,701		282,629
Credit facility fees		-		-		317,594
Other general and administrative expenses		388,229	·	314,196		53,754
Total Operating Expenses		17,211,976		14,345,532		2,392,076
Waiver of Incentive Fees		(1,399,226)		(956,525)		-
Total expenses, net of fee waivers		15,812,750		13,389,007		1,304,356
Net Investment Income		16,512,097		16,011,729		1,304,356
Net Realized Gain on Investments and Cash Equivalents		445,157		1,027,392		
<i>Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) on Investments and Cash Equivalents</i>		(6,489,990)		505,876		(5,932)
Benefit/(Provision) for taxes on unrealized gain on investments		(288,122)		_		
Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations	\$	10,179,142	\$	17,544,997	\$	1,298,424
Net Investment Income Per Share	\$	1.34	\$	1.33	\$	0.11
Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from	-		· ·			
Operations Per Share	\$	0.83	\$	1.45	\$	0.11
Weighted Average Shares of Common Stock Outstanding	_	12,281,178		12,059,293		12,035,023

# STELLUS CAPITAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended (May 18, 201	For the period from Inception (May 18, 2012) through December 31, 2012	
Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations		
	1,356	
Net realized gain on investments and cash equivalents445,1571,027,392Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	-	
on investments and cash equivalents (6,489,990) 505,876 (5 Benefits/(Provision) for taxes on unrealized gain on	5,932)	
investments (288,122) -	-	
Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from		
	3,424	
Stockholder distributions from:		
Net Investment Income \$ (16,029,081) \$ (16,399,402) \$ (2,179)	),342)	
Net realized capital gains \$	-	

# Net decrease in net assets resulting from

stockholder distributions	(17,501,630)	(16,399,402)	(2,179,342)
Capital share transactions			
Issuance of common stock	5,087,335	-	180,409,145
Reinvestments of stockholder distributions	398,505	899,964	112,948
Sales load	(75,510)	-	(4,959,720)
Offering costs	(29,904)	-	(835,500)
Net increase in net assets resulting from capital			
share transactions	5,380,426	899,964	174,726,873
Total increase (decrease) in net assets	(1,942,062)	2,045,559	173,845,955
Net assets at beginning of year/period	175,891,514	173,845,955	-
Net assets at end of year/period (includes \$799,643,			
<i>\$1,262,659 and \$874,986 of distributions in excess of net investment income)</i>	\$173,949,452	\$175,891,514	\$173,845,955
Distributions per share	\$1.43	\$1.36	\$0.18

# STELLUS CAPITAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	For the year ended December 31, 2014	For the year ended December 31, 2013	For the period from Inception (May 18, 2012) through December 31, 2012
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations Adjustments to reconcile net increase in net assets resulting from operations to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:	\$ 10,179,142	\$ 17,544,997	\$ 1,298,424
Purchases of investments	(97,954,324)	(176,445,413)	(232,708,419)
Proceeds from sales and repayments of	(01,001,021)	(110,110,110)	(202,100,110)
investments Net change in unrealized (appreciation)	54,870,360	97,437,434	66,458,112
depreciation on investments	6,490,090	(504,459)	4,415
Increase in investments due to PIK	(730,036)	(1,073,588)	(18,044)
Net amortization of premium and accretion of			
discount	(686,985)	(436,582)	(28,175)
Amortization of loan structure fees	607,404	568,086	67,595
Amortization of deferred financing costs	90,614	-	-
Amortization of loan fees on SBIC debentures	37,117	-	-
Net realized gain on investments	(450,031)	(1,030,646)	-
Changes in other assets and liabilities	(000 750)	(0.4.40.004)	
Increase in interest receivable	(368,753)	(2,140,081)	(2,573,831)
Decrease (increase) in receivable for affiliated transaction	43,450	(42.450)	
Increase in accounts receivable		(43,450)	-
	(696)	-	-
Increase (decrease) in prepaid expenses and fees	(7,962)	27,063	(438,384)
Increase (decrease) in payable for investments	(7,902)	27,003	(430,304)
purchased	_	(4,750,000)	4,750,000
Increase in management fees payable	183,289	649,696	527,034
Increase (decrease) in directors' fees payable	(96,000)	66,548	29,452
Increase in incentive fees payable	64,614	1,056,942	-
Increase in administrative services payable	328,519		-
Increase in interest payable	112,153	167,574	66,477
Increase in unearned revenue	10,438	146,965	-
Increase in deferred tax liability	288,122	-	-
Increase (decrease) in other accrued expenses	,· <b></b>		
and liabilities	(179,426)	350,110	175,993

Net cash used in operating activities	(27,168,901)	(68,408,804)	(162,389,351)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Borrowings on bridge note	-	-	156,000,000
Payments on bridge note	-	-	(156,000,000)
Proceeds from notes issued	25,000,000	-	-
Proceeds from SBA Debentures	16,250,000	-	-
Financing costs paid on Notes issued	(919,570)	-	-
Financing costs paid on Credit Facility	(795,628)	(206,671)	(2,015,415)
Financing costs paid on SBA Debentures	(719,063)	-	-
Proceeds from the issuance of common stock	5,116,985	-	151,250,000
Sales load for common stock issued	(75,510)	-	(4,959,720)
Offering costs	(116,150)	(352,288)	(688,377)
Stockholder distributions paid	(15,689,142)	(15,499,438)	(2,066,394)
Borrowings under credit facility	105,250,000	159,000,000	71,000,000
Repayments of credit facility	(108,750,000)	(87,000,000)	(33,000,000)
Repayments of short-term loan	(9,000,000)	(85,000,576)	45,000,943
Borrowings on short-term loan	-	48,999,633	
Net cash provided by financing activities	15,551,922	19,940,660	224,521,037
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents balance at beginning of	(11,616,979)	(48,468,144)	62,131,686
year/period	13,663,542	62,131,686	-
Cash and cash equivalents balance at end of year/period	\$ 2,046,563	\$ 13,663,542	\$ 62,131,686
Supplemental and non-cash financing activities Purchase of portfolio companies through the		· ·	
issuance of common stock	-	-	29,159,145
Accrued deferred offering costs	-	-	147,123
Shares issued pursuant to Dividend			
Reinvestment Plan	398,505	899,964	112,948
Interest expense paid	4,465,618	2,377,282	141,205

#### About Stellus Capital Investment Corporation

The Company is an externally-managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. The Company's investment objective is to maximize the total return to its stockholders in the form of current income and capital appreciation by investing primarily in private middle-market companies (typically those with \$5.0 million to \$50.0 million of EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization)) through first lien, second lien, unitranche and mezzanine debt financing, and corresponding equity investments. The Company's investment activities are managed by its investment adviser, Stellus Capital Management. To learn more about Stellus Capital Investment Corporation, visit <u>www.stelluscapital.com</u> under the Stellus Capital Investment Corporation link.

#### Forward Looking Statements

Statements included herein may contain "forward-looking statements" which relate to future performance or financial condition. Statements other than statements of historical facts included in this press release may constitute forward-looking statements and are not guarantees of future performance or results and involve a number of assumptions, risks and uncertainties, which change over time. Actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors, including those described from time to time in filings by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company undertakes no duty to update any forward-looking statement made herein. All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this press release.

#### Available Information

Stellus' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, press releases, earnings release, and other financial information are available on its website at <a href="https://www.stelluscapital.com">www.stelluscapital.com</a> under the Stellus Capital Investment Corporation link.

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