

## PRESS RELEASE

# **Meridiam enters into strategic partnership with GSEZ Mineral Port to enhance new port facility in Owendo**

**Libreville, September 15<sup>th</sup> 2017** - GSEZ Mineral Port, Central Africa's leading port operator located in Gabon, and Meridiam, an international public infrastructure investment fund, are pleased to announce they will enter into a strategic partnership to further develop and cement the port's capabilities as the region's leading gateway to and from Central Africa.

Upon completion of this transaction, Meridiam will hold a 25% stake in GSEZ Mineral Port. The balance 75% will be held by GSEZ SA.

Located in Owendo, Libreville in Gabon, the 45-ha GSEZ Mineral Port is well-networked by rail, road and sea to various mines/and other industrial facilities in Gabon and other countries in Central Africa. Its unique multi-modal facilities include railway lines, sidings and berths, a 170m-long wharf and 20,000 sqm<sup>2</sup> of specialised storage capacity. State-of-the-art handling capabilities and infrastructure provide cost competitive and comprehensive solutions for bulk cargo imports and exports, essential to mid-sized miners and industrials seeking to expand their global/regional market presence and customer reach.

Since its commissioning in January this year, the Port has already handled over 1.2 million tons of minerals and industrial materials. Its phased expansion will see it eventually handling over 5 million tons.

The Mineral Port is one of the key projects under the GSEZ umbrella, which specialises in large-scale infrastructure projects, including industrial parks, ports, airports, electrical and water lines, all of which are a part of the Gabonese government's strategy to diversify the country's economy away from oil exports. This latest development will see Meridiam adding and delivering their developmental expertise to GSEZ Mineral Port, garnered from an enviable track record in funding and developing similar infrastructure projects across the continent.

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## **About Gabon Special Economic Zone GSEZ**

GSEZ was set up to accelerate Gabon's economic development and diversification by developing large-scale, state-of-the-art infrastructure in Gabon and other Central and Western African countries. Established in 2010, it is a Joint venture between Olam International Ltd, the Republic of Gabon and Africa Finance Corporation.

[www.gsez.com](http://www.gsez.com)

## **About Meridiam**

Meridiam is an independent investment firm specialising in the development, financing, and management of long-term and sustainable public infrastructure projects. It was founded in 2005 by Thierry Déau with the belief that the alignment of interests between the public and private sector can provide critical solutions to the collective needs of communities. With offices in Paris, New York, Toronto, Luxembourg, Istanbul, Vienna, Addis Ababa and Dakar, Meridiam currently manages Euro 6 billion of assets, with more than 60 projects under development, construction, or in operation to date.

[www.meridiam.com](http://www.meridiam.com).

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