INVESTINDUSTRIAL STRENGTHENS ITS MIDDLE EAST PLATFORM THROUGH NEXTURE'S ACQUISITION OF LA CREMA

Reflects Investindustrial's continued commitment to the UAE's growth and development

Demonstrates a proven track record of supporting portfolio company international expansion and deep expertise in the food ingredients and value-added solutions sector

Reinforces Investindustrial's position as a leading mid-market investor executing a global buy-and-build strategy

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Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 21 September 2026, Nexture S.p.A. ("Nexture" or the "Group"), a globally integrated group specialising in the development and manufacture of high-quality food ingredients and value-added solutions, today announced it has signed an agreement to acquire La Crema, a Dubai-based manufacturer of chocolate and value-added food ingredients serving a variety of end applications, including ice cream, bakery and fine pastry. Nexture is an independently managed investment company affiliated with Investindustrial VII L.P.

The acquisition of La Crema by Nexture represents the latest add-on acquisition by a portfolio company affiliated with Investindustrial in the Middle East. Investindustrial has a long track record of supporting portfolio company expansion and buy-and-build strategies worldwide. Investindustrial has completed 3 add-on acquisitions in the Middle East since 2024 and 281 in total across more than 30 countries, with a combined enterprise value of €14.1 billion.

Investindustrial has established a significant presence in the UAE and the wider Middle East, reflecting its long-term commitment to the region. Through its activities across key international markets, Investindustrial supports portfolio companies as they pursue international expansion and build commercial relationships across the Middle East. Several independently managed portfolio companies affiliated with Investindustrial have expanded their activities in the UAE in recent years, including Ermenegildo Zegna, Eataly, Flos B&B Italia Group and Omnia Technologies. The Investindustrial Foundation also supports educational and research initiatives in the region, including through its partnership with the Transition Investment Lab at NYU Abu Dhabi.

Formed following Investindustrial's acquisition of CSM Ingredients in 2021, Nexture has evolved into a leading player in the food value-added ingredients and solutions category. Nexture's acquisition of La Crema follows the acquisitions earlier this year of Frulact and Sipral Padana and, together with La Crema, demonstrates Investindustrial's long track record of supporting the international expansion of its portfolio companies and transforming local champions into global leaders.

Headquartered in Dubai, UAE, La Crema was founded by Bilal Khalife in 2016 as a trading business serving the HoReCa segment, and expanded into in-house manufacturing in 2018, combining production with a distribution network spanning wholesalers, distributors and retailers. Its established presence in Dubai provides Nexture with an attractive platform from which to serve customers across the Middle East and pursue further growth in the region. La Crema's manufacturing facility is based in Dubai, and its workforce includes approximately 170 employees in production, operations, and sales & marketing.

Bilal Khalifeh, Chief Executive Officer of La Crema, "The UAE and the broader Gulf region represent a strategic pillar of Nexture's expansion plans. The region's strong macro-economic fundamentals, rapid population growth and increasing demand for high-quality, specialised food ingredients creates a highly compelling environment to grow. In this context, we view Nexture and Investindustrial as ideal partners, combining deep regional understanding, international reach and a shared ambition to build leading businesses. We believe that combining La Crema's strong regional presence and high quality portfolio with Nexture's global reach provides a highly complementary and mutually reinforcing partnership, capable of accelerating the business to become the leading supplier in the region."

Valerie-Diele Braun, Chief Executive Officer of Nexture, explained: "This acquisition marks an important step in Nexture's global growth strategy, establishing our first manufacturing footprint in the Middle East and giving us direct access to one of the world's fastest-growing ingredients markets. La Crema is a natural fit for our portfolio, adding a rich and diversified chocolate offering to our value-added solutions and unlocking meaningful synergies across the Group. We're also particularly excited to strengthen our chocolate offering as it is a category that inspires creativity, delights consumers, and creates lasting value for our customers. We are delighted to partner with Mr. Bilal Khalife, who has built and developed La Crema into the business it is today. We look forward to working with him to unlock the company's next phase of growth."

Andrea C. Bonomi, Chairman of the Investindustrial Industrial Advisory Board, said: "Nexture's acquisition of La Crema reflects both the strength of Investindustrial's global platform and our long-term commitment to the UAE, which has become a strategic hub for the growth and international expansion of the companies we partner with. With a strong presence in the region, deep local relationships and on-the-ground expertise, we are uniquely positioned to support businesses as they build partnerships and scale successfully across the Middle East. This transaction is expected to mark an important milestone in Nexture's development and further demonstrates how Investindustrial supports ambitious businesses as they grow from local champions into global leaders."

Emanuela Cisini, Partner and Head of the Middle East and Asia at Investindustrial, said "The acquisition of La Crema represents a compelling strategic opportunity for Nexture. Through La Crema, Nexture will gain an established manufacturing platform in the UAE, strong local relationships and direct access to a fast-growing market. We believe there is significant opportunity to combine local entrepreneurial expertise with Nexture's global capabilities to accelerate innovation, strengthen customer partnerships and support the company's next phase of growth.

Completion of the transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals, and is currently expected to take place by the end of 2026.

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ABOUT INVESTINDUSTRIAL

Investindustrial is a leading European group of independently managed investment, holding, and advisory companies with €19 billion of raised fund capital. With sustainability principles deeply embedded into the Firm's core approach, Investindustrial has a 36-year history of providing mid-market companies with capital, industrial expertise, operational focus and global platforms to accelerate sustainable value creation and international expansion. Certain companies of the Investindustrial group are authorised by, and subject to regulatory supervision of the FCA in the United Kingdom, the CSSF in Luxembourg and the FSRA in Abu Dhabi Global Market. References to 'Investindustrial' are of generic nature, for ease of reading, and may refer, depending on the context, to a fund or any of its independently managed subsidiaries. Investindustrial's investment companies act independently from each other and each Investindustrial fund.

More information is available at www.investindustrial.com

ABOUT NEXTURE

Headquartered in Milan, Italy, and held by an independently managed investment company affiliated to Investindustrial, Nexture empowers food brands worldwide with cutting-edge ingredients and value-added solutions. As a global integrated group, Nexture encompasses renowned brands such as CSM Ingredients, HIFOOD, Frulact, Italcanditi, Sipral Group, Comprital, and Prodotti Rubicone, all internationally recognised for the excellence of their solutions and their ability to anticipate consumer trends. As at 31 July 2026, Nexture operates in over 120 countries, with 29 production plants, 26 development centres, 4 innovation centres and over 2,800 employees. Thanks to its broad product range and specialised expertise across multiple food categories, Nexture is uniquely positioned as a one-stop shop able to support food artisans and manufacturers in crafting and producing goods that perform, delight, and evolve with consumer and planet needs. By combining artisanal heritage, technological know-how, a sustainability focus and an extensive network to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving market, Nexture supports the evolution of several market segments: bread, fine pastry, fresh dairy & dairy alternatives, bars & snacks, ice cream, artisanal gelato, plant-based alternatives, ready meals, sauces & dressings, beverages, confectionery and free-from goods. Any references to "Investindustrial" are intended as general and should not be construed as an indication of control by any specific company or individual. Investindustrial's investment companies are each independently managed by their respective board of directors.

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