Press Release

Paris, July 18, 2024 –   Ardian, one of the world leaders in private investment and one of the pioneers in its sector in the use of AI, has successfully developed nine prototypes on AI and generative AI use cases in less than three days.
This hackathon, named Ardian Startup Studio, was organised in collaboration with Artefact, a French company and European Leader specialising in the deployment of AI technologies and advanced data solutions, and Microsoft, a globally renowned company offering infrastructure and technological solutions dedicated to generative AI.

Following an international call for applications open to all Ardian employees, 40 ideas were proposed by 60 participants, leveraging artificial intelligence to address the company's concrete and current challenges. Nine projects were then selected for a three-day acceleration phase, supported by eleven Artefact data scientists, twelve engineering students, and eleven design thinking facilitators.

With the help of experts from Microsoft, Artefact and Dynergie (innovation consulting agency), the teams worked on all stages of developing use cases involving generative AI applicable to their respective fields and needs: from the ideation phase to the design of functional demonstrators that will be developed, particularly through the use of Microsoft's AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot Studio, Microsoft Azure Open AI Service.

The goal of this event was to enhance Ardian's value proposition by utilising artificial intelligence to address the concrete and current challenges faced by the company. Three projects were ultimately selected by a jury to be developed in the coming months. The jury was composed of:

- Mathias Burghardt, CEO, Ardian France
- Michael Ferragamo, Head of Global Compliance & Risk, Ardian
- Vincent Joly, Head of IT & Managing Director, Ardian
- Jean-Louis Missika, Ardian Advisor
- Maria Stasse, Co-head of Human Resources, Ardian
- Pauline Thomson, Head of Data Science & Managing Director, Ardian
- Philippe Limantour, Chief Technology and CyberSecurity Officer, Microsoft France
- Jérôme Petit, Managing Partner, Artefact

"This event reflects the spirit of innovation at Ardian. The goal here was to strengthen our skills and to position Ardian as a pioneer in AI in its sector, in an ever-evolving world, while developing the group's strategic vision. I therefore commend each participant for their

commitment to this challenge. It is through such initiatives that Ardian will remain at the forefront of innovation, competitiveness, and excellence." *Mathias Burghardt, Executive Vice President of Ardian | CEO of Ardian France | Founder and Head of Ardian Infrastructure*

"We are very proud to have supported Ardian during this event dedicated to generative AI. Thanks to our design thinking specialists and data science experts, we helped passionate teams, bringing together Ardian talents, to design and prototype innovative solutions in just three days with the aim of deploying generative AI within their company. The result is simply remarkable! In just a few days, we achieved what usually takes six months! The solutions envisioned by the winners will be integrated into the development backlog with Microsoft and the new Data Platform we are building alongside the Ardian teams." *Jérôme Petit, Managing Partner Artefact*

"The Ardian startup studio, an AI hackathon, demonstrates our capacity to innovate and develop new activities made possible by our generative AI offerings and infrastructure. It not only illustrates the excitement around AI, but also the enthusiasm for combining ideas, skills, and technologies. We are pleased to be working with trusted and experienced entity like Artefact and look forward to seeing how these collaborations can turn the projects from these three days into real successes." *Philippe Limantour, Chief Technology and CyberSecurity Officer Microsoft France*

About ARDIAN:
Ardian is a world-leading private investment house, managing or advising $166bn of assets on behalf of more than 1,650 clients globally. Our broad expertise, spanning Private Equity, Real Assets and Credit, enables us to offer a wide range of investment opportunities and respond flexibly to our clients' differing needs. Through Ardian Customized Solutions we create bespoke portfolios that allow institutional clients to specify the precise mix of assets they require and to gain access to funds managed by leading third-party sponsors. Private Wealth Solutions offers dedicated services and access solutions for private banks, family offices and private institutional investors worldwide. Ardian's main shareholding group is its employees and we place great emphasis on developing its people and fostering a collaborative culture based on collective intelligence. Our 1,050+ employees, spread across 19 offices in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Middle East are strongly committed to the principles of Responsible Investment and are determined to make finance a force for good in society. Our goal is to deliver excellent investment performance combined with high ethical standards and social responsibility.

About Artefact:
Artefact is a global leader in data & AI consulting services dedicated to transforming data into business impact across the entire value chain of organisations. We offer a comprehensive set of data-driven solutions, built on data science and AI technologies, delivering projects at scale in all industry sectors. Our 1500+ employees operate in 22

countries and we partner with 1000 clients, including 300 major brands like Samsung, L'Oréal, Orange and Sanofi.

We provide customised services from strategy to operations: data strategy, data quality and governance, data platforms, AI factories, demand forecasting, data marketing & sales, AI for call centres, Data & AI School, specialised by industry sectors with dedicated consultancy and technology support.

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