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Franco is an independent advisor providing targeted economic analysis, strategic marketing, project structuring & development services to project sponsors, small-medium enterprises (SME) and institutional clients committed to promoting sustainable investment and clean-tech solutions.

His firm — Value Tree Partners LLC, based in Bethesda (MD) - provides highly customized services on project & economic development plans, technology diffusion programs, and foreign direct investment in infrastructure and renewable energy. The firm's main area of reference is the USA, Europe and the Americas. In addition to mid-cap and institutional clients, such as Veolia Environmental Services S.p.A and the Technology Labs of Ferrara University (TekneHub - recupero e riqualificazione architettonica e urbana e restauro dei beni culturali ; Terra&Acqua Tech - ambiente, acqua, suolo, territorio ; MechLav - Laboratorio per la meccanica avanzata ; Laboratorio per le Tecnologie delle Terapie Avanzate - Biotecnologie applicate alla medicina), Franco provides independent directorship services to innovative SMEs and start-ups in the clean-tech sector, including SHAP Technology Corporation Ldt., www.shap.ie, (i.e., as president and director of this Irish clean-tech provider specializing in distributed generation systems fed by multiple industrial/agricultural waste streams and biosolids), and StarEnergyCo Inc. (i.e., a US project developer specializing in renewable energy with reference to microalgae-technologies for the biological capture and beneficial re-use of CO2). Franco is co-founder and Sr. VP of Carrick Bend LLC, www.carrickbendgroup.com — i.e., an Authorized MIGA Marketing Agent (http://www.miga.org/guarantees/index_sv.cfm?stid=1755) providing project structuring services and political risk mitigation products of this Agency of the World Bank Group.

Franco held Sr. Executive positions with the Inter-American Development Bank (2001-2007), including Head of the Strategy Office of President Enrique Iglesias; the Fiat Group (1990-1998), including President & CEO of Fiat USA Inc. and FIAT Group Companies in North America, and General Secretary of the International Advisory Board of Fiat S.p.A. chaired by Avv. Giovanni Agnelli and Dr. Henry Kissinger; the World Bank Group (as Sr. Economist and Country Officers in the Africa Region, 1985-90); the Italian Ministry of Plan and Environment (as member / coordinator of the National Technical Committees for the evaluation of public investment in infrastructure, 1982-85). He began his career as Sr. Economist in the Research Department of Confindustria (1977-82) and holds a Laurea cum laude in Economics from Bologna University (1974-75) and a Master of Science (MSc.) in Economics & Finance from the London School of Economics (1980-81).

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