THE M&A ADVISOR

NEWS RELEASE

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THE M&A ADVISOR ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FIRST ANNUAL GLOBAL M&A AWARDS

Finalists for U.S. Middle-Market Financing Awards Also Named

NEW YORK, AUG. 25, 2009 — *The M&A Advisor* today announced 94 finalists for the industry's first annual Global M&A Advisor Awards and 51 finalists for the fourth annual U.S. Middle-Market Financing Awards. The finalists – in what is often referred to as the "Academy Awards for the M&A industry" – will be judged by an independent panel and award recipients will be announced in September.

"*The M&A Advisor* is very pleased to introduce a new awards program to recognize international deals, dealmakers and firms," said Roger Aguinaldo, founder and chief executive of *The M&A Advisor*. "The trend toward global deals has been growing steadily, and because more than half the deals completed every year are outside the U.S., it made sense for us to broaden our focus and recognize important global transactions."

Global Finalists are divided into the following regional groupings:

- Americas
- Europe
- Asia, Middle-East, Africa and Oceania

Finalists' transactions had to close between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and be valued at US $10 million. There is no maximum limit on deal size.

U.S. Middle-Market Financing Awards Recognize Top Deals

The U.S. Middle-Market Financing Awards, now in its fourth year, is carrying on the tradition of recognizing financing deals and dealmakers in the United States. Finalists' transactions had to close between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and have a transaction value of between $10 million and $1 billion.

Past recipients include investment banking firm Houlihan Lokey, financing firm PNC Financial, law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, and financing firm Golub Capital.

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"We are very pleased with the volume of nominations for both the Global and Middle-Market Financing Awards," Mr. Aguinaldo said. "In a challenging deal environment, where financing has been tight or non-existent, all the nominees have demonstrated that they are among the best, brightest, and most significant trendsetting dealmakers today. Congratulations to all the finalists."

Finalists for the first annual *M&A Advisor* Global M&A Awards and U.S. Middle Market Awards are listed below.

THE M&A ADVISOR

Since 1998, The M&A Advisor has been the preeminent organization facilitating connections and recognizing achievement in the top performers of the M&A, turnaround and financing industries through its leading events and awards galas, M&A *Alerts* newsletter and online community. For more information, go to www.maadvisor.com.

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***M&A Advisor* Global Awards Finalists:**

Region: **Americas**

Deal of the Year
Sale of Bancomext's Chilean toll road assets to Globalvia Infraestructuras – **BNP Paribas**
Acquisition of Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management Ltd. by Royal Bank of Canada – **Borden Ladner Gervais, LLP**
Sale of George Weston Ltd.'s U.S. Bakeries to Grupo Bimbo SA de CV – **CIBC World Markets**
Acquisition of Abebooks by Amazon.com – **Houlihan Lokey**
Acquisition of Lift Technologies, Inc. by Calvi Holding S.r.l – **Houlihan Lokey**
Hunting plc's sale of Gibson Energy to Riverstone – **Simmons & Company International**
Reverse Morris Trust Split-off of Folgers Coffee by Procter & Gamble to J.M. Smucker – **The Blackstone Group**

Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year
Acquisition of Pyramid Energy Inc. by Fox Energy Corporation – **Fox Energy Corporation**
Acquisition of Abebooks by Amazon.com – **Houlihan Lokey**
Acquisition of Lift Technologies, Inc. by Calvi Holding S.r.l – **Houlihan Lokey**

U.S. Cross-Border Deal of the Year (involving a company in the U.S.)
Reverse Morris Trust Split-off of Folgers Coffee by Procter & Gamble to J.M. Smucker – **The Blackstone Group**
Acquisition of Abebooks by Amazon.com – **Houlihan Lokey**
Acquisition of Lift Technologies, Inc. by Calvi Holding S.r.l – **Houlihan Lokey**

Dealmaker of the Year
Mary Anne Citrino – **The Blackstone Group**
Abelardo Valenzuela – **BNP Paribas**
James P. Baker – **Simmons & Company International**

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year
Sale of Bancomext's Chilean toll road assets to Globalvia Infraestructuras – **BNP Paribas**
Acquisition of Lift Technologies, Inc. by Calvi Holding S.r.l – **Houlihan Lokey**
Acquisition of Arlington Tankers by General Maritime Corporation – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**

Consumer and Retail Products Deal of the Year
Reverse Morris Trust Split-off of Folgers Coffee by Procter & Gamble to J.M. Smucker – **The Blackstone Group**
Sale of George Weston Ltd.'s U.S. Bakeries to Grupo Bimbo SA de CV – **CIBC World Markets**
Acquisition of Abebooks by Amazon.com – **Houlihan Lokey**

Investment Banking Firm of the Year
The Blackstone Group Corporate Advisory Services
CIBC World Markets
Houlihan Lokey

Region: **Europe**

Deal of the Year
Acquisition of French Editis Group by the Spanish Grupo Planeta – **Arsene Taxand**
Acquisition of Albanian distribution company by CEZ – **Deloitte**
Acquisition of StarMine by Reuters – **Marlin & Associates**
Sale of RT Dooley Construction Company, Inc., to Balfour Beatty Construction Group, Inc. – **McColl Partners, LLC**
Bridge Financing for VEM / Merckle – **Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz**
Acquisition of Knaus Tabbert by HTP – **Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz**
Structuring of the first German SPAC – **Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz**
Acquisition of CoreValve Inc by Medtronic – **Sofinnova Partners**
Sale of Cookson Group plc's Hi-Tech Ceramics business to Süd-Chemie AG to Satisfy European Union Anti-trust Requirements – **Vetus Partners**

Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year
Acquisition of H.P. White Laboratory, Inc. by Intertek Group plc – **Citi Capital Strategies**
Acquisition of Albanian distribution company by CEZ – **Deloitte**
Genesys SA acquired by West Corporation – **Houlihan Lokey**
Sale of RT Dooley Construction Company, Inc., to Balfour Beatty Construction Group, Inc. – **McColl Partners, LLC**

Equity Financing Deal of the Year
Growth equity financing of Sulfurcell Solartechnik GmbH – **EquityGate Advisors GmbH**
Acquisition of Tenimenti Fontanafredda by Fondazione Monte Dei Paschi Di Siena – **Fondazione Monte Dei Paschi Di Siena**
Acquisition of Bank BPH S.A. by G.E. Capital International Financing Corporation – **Grimaldi E Associati**

U.S. Cross-Border Deal of the Year (involving a company located in the U.S.)

Acquisition of H.P. White Laboratory, Inc. by Intertek Group plc – **Citi Capital Strategies**
Acquisition of Tenfore Systems by Morningstar – **Marlin & Associates**
Sale of RT Dooley Construction Company, Inc., to Balfour Beatty Construction Group, Inc. – **McColl Partners, LLC**
Sale of Cookson Group plc's Hi-Tech Ceramics business to Süd-Chemie AG to Satisfy European Union Anti-trust Requirements – **Vetus Partners**
Acquisition of Odyssey Industries, Inc. by Hampson Industries US, Inc. – **Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett, P.C.**

Dealmaker of the Year

Wojciech Hann – **Deloitte Advisory**
Eric Andreozzi – **McColl Partners, LLC**
R. Jamison Williams, Jr. – **Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett, P.C.**

Healthcare/Life Sciences (*pharmaceutical, biotech, etc*) Deal of the Year

Acquisition of Eurocut LTD by Semes LTD – **Semes LTD**
Acquisition of CoreValve Inc by Medtronic – **Sofinnova Partners**
Acquisition of Avenira Center AB by Frosunda LLS AB – **White & Case LLP**

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year

Acquisition of Knaus Tabbert by HTP – **Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz**
Acquisition of Borsig by KNM group – **Orrick, Herrington, & Sutcliffe LLP**
Sale of Cookson Group plc's Hi-Tech Ceramics business to Süd-Chemie AG to Satisfy European Union Anti-trust Requirements – **Vetus Partners**

Professional Services *(B-to-B focus)* Deal of the Year

Acquisition of H.P. White Laboratory, Inc. by Intertek Group plc – **Citi Capital Strategies**
Sale of RT Dooley Construction Company, Inc., to Balfour Beatty Construction Group, Inc. – **McColl Partners, LLC**
Structuring of the first German SPAC – **Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz**

Energy Deal of the Year

Acquisition of Segebel SA by Centrica PLC – **Centrica PLC**
Acquisition of Albanian distribution company by CEZ – **Deloitte**
Acquisition of Encore Oil Nederland BV by Taqa Energy BV – **Taqa Energy BV**

Investment Banking Firm of the Year

Houlihan Lokey
Lincoln International LLC
Marlin & Associates

Private Equity Firm of the Year

3i Group plc
CVC Capital Partners
Sofinnova Partners

M&A Product/Service of the Year

Bowne Virtual Dataroom
Capital IQ
Merrill Datasite

Law Firm of the Year
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP
Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz
Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett, P.C.

Region: **Asia, Middle-East, Africa and Oceania**

Deal of the Year
Acquisition of Peak International Limited by S&G Company – **Houlihan Lokey**
Acquisition of Aladdin Knowledge Systems by Affiliates of Vector Capital – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Sale of controlling stake in Aztecsoft Ltd to Mindtree Ltd – **YES Bank**

Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year
Acquisition of Peak International Limited by S&G Company – **Houlihan Lokey**
Acquisition of Nortel Network's Layer 4-7 Application Delivery Business by Radware – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Acquisition of controlling stake in Infomedia India Ltd by TV – **YES Bank**

Turnaround Deal of the Year
Restructuring of Centro Properties Group – **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP**
Restructuring of Daito ME Co. – **Daito Holdings KK**
Restructuring of Bank Lippo Tbk, PT – **Khazanah Nasional Bhd**

Green/Environmental Deal of the Year
Acquisition of Aqwise-Water Technologies, LTD by Elron Electronic Industries, LTD – **Elron Electronic Industries, LTD**
Acquisition of UEM World BHD's remaining businesses and undertakings by UEM Group Berhad – **UEM Group Berhad**
Formation of a joint venture and acquisition of Honiton Energy Holdings plc by the joint venture – **YES Bank**

Information Technology *(includes internet, computers, etc)* Deal of the Year
Acquisition of Peak International Limited by S&G Company – **Houlihan Lokey**
Acquisition of Aladdin Knowledge Systems by Affiliates of Vector Capital – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Sale of controlling stake in Aztecsoft Ltd to Mindtree Ltd – **YES Bank**

Media, Entertainment or Telecom Deal of the Year
Acquisition of 35.19% stake in Sri Lanka Telecom Ltd by Global Telecommunications Holdings NV – **Clifford Chance**
Acquisition of Nortel Network's Layer 4-7 Application Delivery Business by Radware – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Acquisition of controlling stake in Infomedia India Ltd by TV – **YES Bank**

Law Firm of the Year
Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs Inc.
Mallesons Stephen Jaques
Shin & Kim

M&A Advisor U.S. Middle-Market Financing Finalists:

Major Deal Categories:

Middle-Market M&A Financing Deal of the Year

Vertis/American Color Graphics merger – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
Leveraged Recapitalization of Brook & Whittle, Ltd – **Citi Capital Strategies**
Take Private of Meadow Valley Corporation – **Insight Equity**
Stone Point Capital LLC (with co-investors) debt and equity investment in Amherst Holdings, LLC – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Acquisition Financing of Food Services Company – **The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.**

Debt Financing Deal of the Year

Media Rights Capital's $350 million credit facility – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
American Apparel Secured Second Lien Credit Facility – **Financo Inc.**
Asset-based Financing of Columbia Forest Products, Inc. – **Houlihan Lokey**
Scientific Games International Credit Transaction – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**

Equity Financing Deal of the Year

Take Private of Meadow Valley Corporation – **Insight Equity**
Acquisition of Intel's Optical Platform Division by Emcore Corporation – **Jones Day**
Common Stock Follow-on Offering/Confidential Accelerated Placement for Regal Beloit Corporation – **Robert W. Baird & Co.**

Deal-Maker of the Year

Steve McLaughlin – **FT Partners**
Howard T. Spilko – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Steven G. Booth – **Robert W. Baird & Co.**

Distressed Financing Deal of the Year

Reorganization of Mrs. Fields – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
Distressed Financing of Lyman Lumber Company – **Alliance Management**
Asset-based Financing of Columbia Forest Products, Inc. – **Houlihan Lokey**

Acquisition Financing Deal of the Year

Leveraged Recapitalization of Brook & Whittle, Ltd – **Citi Capital Strategies**
Take Private of Meadow Valley Corporation – **Insight Equity**
Acquisition Financing of Food Services Company – **The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.**

Sector Deal Categories:

Media, Entertainment, or Telecom Deal of the Year

Media Rights Capital's $350 million credit facility – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
Vertis/American Color Graphics merger – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
Scientific Games International Credit Transaction – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**

Energy Deal of the Year

El Paso Pipeline Partners' acquisition of assets from El Paso Corporation – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
Acquisition of Henry Petroleum LP by Concho Resources Inc. – **Vinson & Elkins LLP**
Acquisition of Intermountain Gas Company by MDU Resources Group Inc. – **Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP**

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services

Leveraged Recapitalization of Brook & Whittle, Ltd – **Citi Capital Strategies**
Take Private of Meadow Valley Corporation – **Insight Equity**
Common Stock Follow-on Offering/Confidential Accelerated Placement for Regal Beloit Corporation - **Robert W. Baird & Co.**

Real Estate Sector Deal

Acquisition of Hyatt Regency Phoenix hotel from Strategic Hotels and Resorts Inc. by DiNapoli Capital Partners LLC – **DiNapoli Capital Partners LLC**
Formation of Private National Mortgage Acceptance Company, LLC – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Acquisition of Hyatt Regency Century Plaza hotel from Sunstone Hotel Investors Inc. by Next Century Associates LLC – **Next Century Associates LLC**

Retail Manufacturing/Distribution & Goods/Services

Reorganization of Mrs. Fields – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
American Apparel Secured Second Lien Credit Facility – **Financo Inc.**
Chapter 11 Reorganization of Hancock Fabrics, Inc. – **Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP**

Financial Services Deal of the Year

Acquisition of First Southwest Company by Plains Capital Corporation – **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**
Acquisition of Innovest Strategic Value Advisors, Inc. by RiskMetrics Group, Inc. – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**
Stone Point Capital LLC (with co-investors) debt and equity investment in Amherst Holdings, LLC. – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**

Agent/Firm/Product Categories:

Debt Financing Agent of the Year

Fifth Street Capital
Golub Capital
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

Investment Banking Firm of the Year

FT Partners
Lincoln International LLC
Robert W. Baird & Co.

Mezzanine Financing Agent of the Year

American Capital Strategies Ltd.
Golub Capital
Prudential Capital Group

Private Equity Sponsor of the Year

Insight Equity
Lone Star New Markets LP
Stone Point Capital

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