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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
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 Citrin – 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

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 Encore Corporation – Jones Day

Deal-Maker of the Year
Steve McLaughlin – FT Partners
Howard T. Spilko – Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

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

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

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, Arsk & 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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