



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **THE M&A ADVISOR ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL GLOBAL M&A AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

**NEW YORK, SEPT. 16, 2009** — *The M&A Advisor* today announced the recipients of the industry's inaugural Global *M&A Advisor* Awards. Award recipients from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America were selected by an independent panel of judges representing a cross-section of the M&A industry.

Investment banking firm Houlihan Lokey led the competition, winning four awards, including Investment Banking Firm of the Year (Americas region), and Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Americas region - Abebooks acquired by Amazon.com). The firm's deal: Peak International Limited acquired by S&G Company won in two categories: Deal of the Year *and* Information Technology Deal of the Year (Asia, Middle-East, Africa and Oceania region).

Blackstone and Yes Bank each received three awards, including Deal of the Year, Dealmaker of the Year and U.S. Cross-Border Deal of the Year (all Americas region) for Blackstone, and Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year, Green/Environmental Deal of the Year and Media, Entertainment or Telecom Deal of the Year (all Asia, Middle-East, Africa and Oceania region) for Yes Bank.

“With deal sizes up to \$3.3 billion, each award recipient has excelled in their field and is truly deserving of the honor,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO of *The M&A Advisor*. “All recipients should be proud of their award, especially in these tough economic times. Congratulations to all of these industry leaders.”

Global Award Finalists were divided into three regional groupings:

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

Transactions had to close between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and be valued at US \$10 million. There was no maximum limit on deal size.

The judges invited to jury this round of awards from *The M&A Advisor* are experienced industry professionals, including financial professionals, academics, consultants and service providers. Judges are volunteers and are not past or present employees of, or consultants to, *The M&A Advisor*. Also, they had no financial or business affiliation with the organization.

Judging is based on several criteria, including quantitative factors such as transaction value, impact on shareholder/company value and market share. Qualitative considerations include impact of transaction on the market/industry, ingenuity in structuring and/or negotiations, diligence and perseverance in consummating the deal and other unique attributes.

### ***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](http://www.maadvisor.com).

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#### ***M&A Advisor* Global Awards Winners:**

**Region: Americas**

#### **Deal of the Year**

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 Abebooks by Amazon.com – **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**

#### **Dealmaker of the Year**

Mary Anne Citrino – **The Blackstone Group**

#### **Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Arlington Tankers by General Maritime Corporation – **Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP**

**Consumer and Retail Products Deal of the Year**

Sale of George Weston Ltd.'s U.S. Bakeries to Grupo Bimbo SA de CV – **CIBC World Markets**

**Investment Banking Firm of the Year**

Houlihan Lokey

**Region: Europe**

**Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Albanian distribution company by CEZ – **Deloitte**

**Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year**

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**

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

Acquisition of Odyssey Industries, Inc. by Hampson Industries US, Inc. – **Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett, P.C.**

**Dealmaker of the Year**

R. Jamison Williams, Jr. – **Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett, P.C.**

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

Acquisition of CoreValve Inc by Medtronic – **Sofinnova Partners**

**Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution Deal of the Year**

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**

Structuring of the first German SPAC – **Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz**

**Energy Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Albanian distribution company by CEZ – **Deloitte**

**Investment Banking Firm of the Year**

Lincoln International LLC

**Private Equity Firm of the Year**

Sofinnova Partners

**M&A Product/Service of the Year**

Merrill Datasite

**Law Firm of the Year**

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

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

**Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Peak International Limited by S&G Company – **Houlihan Lokey**

**Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year**

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**

**Green/Environmental Deal of the Year**

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**

**Media, Entertainment or Telecom Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of controlling stake in Infomedia India Ltd by TV – **YES Bank**

**Law Firm of the Year**

Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs Inc.

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