



NEWS RELEASE

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**THE M&A ADVISOR ANNOUNCES WINNERS
OF 8TH ANNUAL M&A AWARDS AT NEW YORK GALA**

NEW YORK, Dec. 15, 2009 — [The M&A Advisor](#) announced the winners of the 2009 M&A Awards to a sold out crowd last night at the 8th Annual M&A Awards Gala at the New York Athletic Club. The event was hosted by [FOX Business News](#) anchor Dagen McDowell.

“The award winners represent the best of the M&A industry in 2009 and earned these honors by standing out in a group of very impressive finalists,” said Roger Aguinaldo, CEO of The M&A Advisor. “Each winner should take pride in their award and the message it sends about the resilience of our industry.”

The M&A Awards Gala honored deal-teams, deal-makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. This year, 170 finalists in 34 categories were chosen. An independent body of experts that span the M&A industry determined the ultimate recipients of the awards. Winners were revealed “Academy-Award style” at the gala.

In addition to the 2009 honorees, the late Bruce Wasserstein, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Lazard Ltd., was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. Roger Aguinaldo, CEO, The M&A Advisor presented the award and led attendees in a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Wasserstein.

The M&A Advisor’s 8th Annual Awards Gala honored excellence in deal-making for transactions over \$10 million in value. The gala is one of the biggest and most exclusive networking events in the M&A industry.

A Complete list of the winners is attached.

Since 1998, The M&A Advisor has been connecting professionals in the mergers and acquisitions, distressed investing and related financial industries through its leading conferences and awards galas, M&A Alerts newsletter and online community. For more information on The M&A Advisor, please contact 1.877.99.MERGE (1.877.996.3743) or www.maadvisor.com.

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Winners of the 8th Annual M&A Awards

The M&A Industry Awards winners were announced “Academy-Awards style” at an Awards Gala at the New York Athletic Club in New York City on December 14, 2009. From 170 finalists, an independent panel of judges determined winners in 34 different categories. In addition to the annual awards, the M&A Advisor chooses the Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, which recognizes excellence in deal making throughout the career of the individual. For more information, please contact the M&A Advisor 718-997-7900 or info@maadvisor.com or visit www.maadvisor.com.

Major Deal Categories:

Lifetime Achievement Award

Bruce Wasserstein, Lazard Ltd.

Upper Middle-Market Deal of the Year (\$250 mm and above)

Acquisition of BearingPoint North American Public Services Business by Deloitte
Houlihan Lokey and Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel

Middle-Market Deal of the Year (Between \$100mm and \$250mm)

Acquisition of Nuclear Fuel Services by The Babcock & Wilcox Company
Raymond James

Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (\$400mm and above)

Acquisition and subsequent merger of Unilever's North American laundry detergent business with Huish Detergents, Inc.
Vestar Capital Partners

Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Between \$100mm and \$400mm)

Acquisition of Direvo Biotech AG by Bayer HealthCare AG
TVM Capital

Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year (Below \$100mm)

Acquisition of Filene's Basement, Inc. by Syms Corp.
Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated



Lower Middle-Market Deal of the Year (Below \$50mm)

Merger of US Logistics with Ranger International Services Group
Generational Equity

Lower Middle-Market Deal of the Year (Between \$50mm and \$100mm)

Carve-out Divestiture of EMBARQ Corporation's Wholly-owned Embarq Logistics
Subsidiary to KGP Telecommunications, Inc.
Vetus Partners

Cross-Border Deal of the Year (\$100mm and above)

Acquisition of Aladdin Knowledge Systems by Affiliates of Vector Capital
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Cross-Border Deal of the Year (Below \$100mm)

Sale of Cookson Group plc's Hi-Tech Ceramics business to Süd-Chemie AG to Satisfy
European Union Anti-trust Requirements
Vetus Partners

Green/Environmental Deal of the Year

Merger of Solar Works, Inc. and SolarWrights to create Alteris Renewables, Inc.
Riverside Partners

Dealmaker of the Year

Jay K. Greyson - *Vetus Partners*

Woman Dealmaker of the Year

Rachel Corn Kluge - *City Capital Advisors*

Magnus Deal of the Year (Transactions over \$1 billion)

Restructuring of Chrysler
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP



Sector Deal Categories:

Information Technology (includes internet, computers, etc) (\$100mm and above)

Sale of Motorola, Inc.'s Printrak biometric business unit to Sagem Sécurité
Imperial Capital, LLC

Information Technology (includes internet, computers, etc) (Below \$100mm)

Acquisition of Paragon Solutions Group by Forsythe Solutions Group
JD Ford & Company

Media, Entertainment or Telecom

Carve-out Divestiture of EMBARQ Corporation's Wholly-owned Embarq Logistics
Subsidiary to KGP Telecommunications, Inc.
Vetus Partners

Healthcare/Life Sciences (pharmaceutical, biotech, etc) (\$100mm and above)

Acquisition of Ranbaxy by Daiichi Sankyo
Religare Enterprises Ltd.

Healthcare/Life Sciences (pharmaceutical, biotech, etc) (Below \$100mm)

Acquisition of Freedom Eldercare, Inc. by Webster Capital
The Braff Group

Energy (includes alternative energy, etc)

Regency Energy Partners' share of a joint venture with an affiliate of GE Energy
Financial Services and Alinda Capital Partners
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Real Estate (commercial, industrial, development, etc)

Sale of GMAC Home Services, LLC to Brookfield Asset Management
Houlihan Lokey



Retail Manufacturing/Distribution

Merger of Boston Rack and Base Manufacturing to form Elite Storage Solutions
Newbury Piret & Company

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (\$100mm and above)

Sale of Norwesco, Inc., a portfolio company of Allied Capital Corporation,
to Olympus Partners
Robert W. Baird & Co.

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (Below \$100mm)

Sale of Cookson Group plc's Hi-Tech Ceramics business to Süd-Chemie AG to Satisfy
European Union Anti-trust Requirements
Vetus Partners

Industrial Goods and Basic Resources

Acquisition of Holopack International Corporation by Olympus Partners
Houlihan Lokey

Financial Services (institutional or consumer services)

Acquisition of Innovest Strategic Value Advisors, Inc. by RiskMetrics Group, Inc.
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Consumer and Retail Products (\$100mm and above)

Acquisition of Earthbound Farm by HM Capital
Houlihan Lokey

Consumer and Retail Products (Below \$100mm)

Acquisition of Filene's Basement, Inc. by Syms Corp.
Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated

Professional Services (B-to-B focus) (\$100mm and above)

Acquisition of BearingPoint North American Public Services Business by Deloitte
Houlihan Lokey and Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel



Professional Services (B-to-B focus) (Below \$100mm)

Acquisition of Jan-Pro Holdings by an investor group led by Webster Capital
Edgeview Partners

Firm/Product Categories:

Investment Banking Firm

Houlihan Lokey

Boutique Investment Banking Firm

Vetus Partners

Law Firm

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Valuation Firm

FMV Opinions, Inc.

M&A Product/Service of the Year

Merrill DataSite Virtual Data Room (VDR)