

Financial Times and mergermarket reveal the winners of the European M&A Awards 2012

- ***Sale of Alliance Boots by KKR awarded Private Equity Deal of the Year***
- ***Goldman Sachs claims European Financial Adviser of the Year***
- ***Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer retains European Legal Adviser prize***

LONDON, 12 December 2012 --- The Financial Times and mergermarket this evening named the top M&A dealmakers in Europe at its annual awards ceremony. Hosted at The Savoy in London, this renowned industry event awarded the top dealmakers from the past year across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Corporate dealmakers

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer successfully retained their title of **European Legal Adviser** in 2012, with advice to UPS on its EUR5.1bn acquisition of TNT featuring among its mandates this year.

Goldman Sachs was crowned **European Financial Adviser** of the year, the first time it has been recognised by the judging panel in this category. The **European Boutique Financial Adviser** prize went to Perella Weinberg Partners, which advised on the EUR3.3bn sale of Energias de Portugal to China Three Gorges, one of the largest cross-border Chinese deals of the year.

The **Corporate M&A Deal of the Year** accolade was awarded to the merger of Glencore and Xstrata, which on its own represents 8% of total European M&A value this year. Ernst & Young scooped the **Accountancy firm of the Year** prize following its provision of transaction services on EUR79bn of European M&A deals this year, including the mega-merger. Brunswick Group won **European Public Relations firm**, which this year was tasked with advising the major Xstrata shareholder Qatar Holding on its communication about the Glencore merger.

Private Equity award winners

Private Equity Deal of the Year was awarded to KKR for its partnership between Alliance Boots and Walgreens for EUR5.2bn. KKR was also recognised as the **Private Equity Firm of the Year**.

Dominic Murphy, Member of KKR and Board Member of Alliance Boots, commented: *"We are delighted to have won this prestigious award. The deal between Alliance Boots and Walgreens is a true partnership and is genuinely unique not only given its innovative structure, but more importantly because of its main goal to create the world's first global pharmacy-led, health and wellbeing enterprise. We believe that this deal, in close partnership with Stefano Pessina, will deliver sustainable value for all stakeholders."*

On winning the Private Equity firm accolade, **Dominic Murphy, Member of KKR** and leading partner on the Alliance Boots investment, commented: *"We are delighted to have received this award, which confirm the excellent capability of KKR's European team in identifying and unlocking attractive investment opportunities through deep sector insight, strong relationships with entrepreneurial management teams, in-house operational expertise and a thoughtful approach to responsible investing. We have been at the heart of some of the most exciting investments in Europe in the past year, including the tie-up between Alliance Boots and Walgreens, and we look forward to 2013 with optimism and encouragement. Our successes have been further strengthened by the recognition we have received in winning this award."*

The accolade for **Private Equity Legal Adviser** was awarded to Linklaters, with notable mandates from the past year for Macquarie, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and Bridgepoint. **Private Equity Financial Adviser** and **European Mid-Market Financial Adviser** were awarded to Rothschild, which was also successful in the Italian and the United Kingdom financial advisory categories. The **European Mid-Market Legal Adviser** prize was awarded to DLA Piper for the third consecutive year.

Giovanni Amodeo, global editor-in-chief at mergermarket, said: *"This year transactions are of a significant importance for the M&A world. The sale by KKR of a successful business like Boots to a strategic investor gives hopes to the private equity industry that exit are still possible even in rough markets. The Glencore-Xstrata deal also shows that the appetite for large strategic deals is there."*

IPO prize

The inaugural award for **IPO of the Year** went to the listing of Direct Line, included for the first time in 2012 following the launch of mergermarket's equity capital markets database.

Paul Geddes, Chief Executive Officer, Direct Line Group, said: *"I'm delighted to receive this award on behalf of Direct Line Group and the many people who worked very hard to make this IPO a success. However, for us this is merely the start of our journey to deliver on our commitments as a quoted company."*

For a full list of winners, please see below.

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The Financial Times / mergermarket European M&A Awards were held at the The Savoy, London on Wednesday 12 December 2012. Winners are decided using both M&A transaction data from mergermarket deals database and independent expert opinion from a panel of leading European M&A practitioners. To view the website for the awards – including details of the judging panel and methodology - please see www.mergermarket.com/awards

Major Awards

Financial Advisor of the Year	Goldman Sachs
Boutique Financial Adviser of the Year	Perella Weinberg Partners LP
Mid-market Financial Advisor of the Year	Rothschild
Private Equity Financial Advisor of the Year	Rothschild
Legal Advisor of the Year	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP
Mid-market Legal Advisor of the Year	DLA Piper
Private Equity Legal Advisor of the Year	Linklaters
Accountancy Firm of the Year	Ernst & Young
PR Firm of the Year	Brunswick Group
Private Equity Firm of the Year	Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co LP
IPO of the Year	Direct Line
M&A Deal of the Year	Merger of Glencore & Xstrata
Private Equity Deal of the Year	KKR's stake sale in Alliance Boots to Walgreen Company

Country Awards

Financial Advisor of the Year Austria & Switzerland	Credit Suisse
Legal Advisor of the Year Austria & Switzerland	Lenz & Staehelin
Financial Advisor of the Year Baltic	SEB Enskilda
Legal Advisor of the Year Baltic	SORAINEN
Financial Advisor of the Year Benelux	Lazard
Legal Advisor of the Year Benelux	Allen & Overy LLP
Financial Advisor of the Year Central Eastern Europe	Citigroup Inc
Legal Advisor of the Year Central Eastern Europe	CMS
Financial Advisor of the Year France	Societe Generale

Legal Advisor of the Year France	Bredin Prat
Financial Advisor of the Year Germany	Deutsche Bank AG
Legal Advisor of the Year Germany	Hengeler Mueller
Financial Advisor of the Year Iberia	Barclays
Legal Advisor of the Year Iberia	Uria Menendez
Financial Advisor of the Year Ireland	Davy Corporate Finance Limited
Legal Advisor of the Year Ireland	Arthur Cox
Financial Advisor of the Year Israel	Goldman Sachs
Legal Advisor of the Year Israel	Herzog, Fox and Neeman
Financial Advisor of the Year Italy	Rothschild
Legal Advisor of the Year Italy	Gianni, Origoni, Grippo, Cappelli & Partners
Financial Advisor of the Year Middle East & North Africa	HSBC
Legal Advisor of the Year Middle East & North Africa	Clifford Chance LLP
Financial Advisor of the Year Nordics	SEB Enskilda
Legal Advisor of the Year Nordics	Mannheimer Swartling
Financial Advisor of the Year Russia & CIS	Deutsche Bank AG
Legal Advisor of the Year Russia & CIS	Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP
Financial Advisor of the Year Sub-Saharan Africa	Standard Chartered Plc
Legal Advisor of the Year Sub-Saharan Africa	Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs
Financial Advisor of the Year Turkey	Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Legal Advisor of the Year Turkey	White & Case LLP
Financial Advisor of the Year United Kingdom	Rothschild
Legal Advisor of the Year United Kingdom	Linklaters

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