



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE M&A ADVISOR ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR 8th ANNUAL M&A AWARDS

NEW YORK, OCT. 20, 2009 — *The M&A Advisor* today announced 170 finalists for its 8th Annual M&A Awards Gala. 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 at the 8th Annual M&A Awards Gala in New York City on December 14, 2009.

“We are truly astonished and gratified at the volume of nominations for these awards and the obvious enthusiasm behind them, despite the current state of the economy and the financial crisis. The response demonstrates the importance of the middle market industry to the overall health of the economy,” says Roger Aguinaldo, CEO of *The M&A Advisor*.

The M&A Advisor’s Annual M&A Awards Gala honors deal-teams, deal-makers, and firms whose activities set the standard for the industry. This year, 170 finalists in 34 categories were chosen including Middle-Market Deal of the Year and Magnus Deal of the Year (Transactions over \$1 billion). Finalists’ transactions had to close between September 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009 and be over \$10 million in transaction value. An independent body of experts that span the M&A industry will be judging and determining the ultimate recipients of the award. Winners will then be announced “Academy-Award style” at the December 14th gala.

Finalists for the 8th Annual M&A 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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The finalists for the 8th Annual M&A Awards are as follows (*Nominating companies or deal sponsors in italics*): Winners will be announced at the Awards Gala in New York City on December 14, 2009. Please visit www.maadvisor.com for additional details.

Major Deal Categories:

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

- Acquisition of BearingPoint North American Public Services Business by Deloitte *Houlihan Lokey; Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Acquisition of Direvo Biotech AG by Bayer HealthCare AG *Mummert & Company Corporate Finance; TVM Capital*
- Acquisition of Earthbound Farm by HM Capital *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Hearthside Food Solutions by Wind Point Partners *Wind Point Partners*
- Acquisition of Insitu by The Boeing Company *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Orthodyne Electronics Corporation by Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc. *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Shred-it International, Inc. by Birch Hill Equity Partners Management Inc. and a consortium of Canadian and European private equity groups *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Sale of Custom House to Western Union *Financial Technology Partners*
- Sale of Norwesco, Inc., a portfolio company of Allied Capital Corporation, to Olympus Partners *Robert W. Baird & Co.*

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

- Acquisition of Digital Receiver Technology, Inc. by The Boeing Company *BB&T Capital Markets | Windsor Group*
- Acquisition of Dominion Technology Resources, Inc. by Qinetiq Group PLC *BB&T Capital Markets | Windsor Group*
- Acquisition of Holopack International Corporation by Olympus Partners *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Jackson Products Inc. by Kimberly-Clark *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Liberty Tire Services by American Securities Capital Partners *Raymond James*
- Acquisition of Nuclear Fuel Services by The Babcock & Wilcox Company *Raymond James*

- Acquisition of Paycycle by Intuit *Raymond James*
- Acquisition of Turner Bros. Holdings, LLC, by Huntsman Gay Global Capital *Edgeview Partners*
- Alternative Asset Management Acquisition Corp (AAMAC) in its business combination with Great American Group *Financo, Inc.*
- Sale of Recycled Paper Greetings to American Greetings *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

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

- Acquisition and subsequent merger of Unilever's North American laundry detergent business with Huish Detergents, Inc. *Vestar Capital Partners*
- Acquisition of Insitu by The Boeing Company *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Ranbaxy by Daiichi Sankyo *Religare Enterprises Ltd.*
- Acquisition of Van Zeeland, Inc. by The Millwork Trading Co. *Financo, Inc.*
- Merger of J.M. Smucker Co. with Folgers Coffee *City Capital Advisors*

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

- Acquisition of BearingPoint North American Public Services Business by Deloitte *Houlihan Lokey; Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Acquisition of Digital Receiver Technology, Inc. by The Boeing Company *BB&T Capital Markets | Windsor Group*
- Acquisition of Direvo Biotech AG by Bayer HealthCare AG *Mummert & Company Corporate Finance; TVM Capital*
- Acquisition of Dominion Technology Resources, Inc. by Qinetiq Group PLC *BB&T Capital Markets | Windsor Group*
- Acquisition of Orthodyne Electronics Corporation by Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc. *Houlihan Lokey*

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

- Acquisition of Crucial Security by Harris Corporation *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Digital Fusion, Inc. by Kratos Defense & Security Solutions *Imperial Capital LLC*
- Acquisition of Filene's Basement, Inc. by Syms Corp. *Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated*
- Acquisition of Paragon Solutions Group by Forsythe Solutions Group *JD Ford & Company*
- Acquisition of Thomas & Betts Corporation's HDPE Pipe Extrusion Assets and H&H Aero by Bore Flex Industries Inc. *Morgan Joseph & Co. Inc.*

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

- Acquisition of CAV International by Ranger International Services Group *Generational Equity*
- Acquisition of Hirsch Electronics by SCM Microsystems *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Acquisition of Paragon Solutions Group by Forsythe Solutions Group *JD Ford & Company*
- Acquisition of Powertuff Corporation by Bronco Manufacturing and Crystal Ridge Partners *Generational Equity*
- Acquisition of Spirit Express Trucking by American Transport Services *Generational Equity*
- Acquisition of Thomas & Betts Corporation's HDPE Pipe Extrusion Assets and H&H Aero by Bore Flex Industries Inc. *Morgan Joseph & Co. Inc.*
- Acquisition of We R Memory Keepers, Inc. by Mariner Capital Partners *FMV Capital Markets*
- Merger of Solar Works, Inc. and SolarWrights to create Alteris Renewables, Inc. *Riverside Partners*
- Merger of US Logistics with Ranger International Services Group *Generational Equity*
- Sale of Microstrategy, Inc.'s majority-owned subsidiary, Alarm.com Incorporated, to a consortium of investors led by ABS Capital Partners and Egis Capital Partners. *Imperial Capital, LLC*

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

- Acquisition of Filene's Basement, Inc. by Syms Corp. *Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated*
- Acquisition of Jan-Pro Holdings by an investor group led by Webster Capital *Edgeview Partners*
- Carve-out Divestiture of EMBARQ Corporation's Wholly-owned Embarq Logistics Subsidiary to KGP Telecommunications, Inc. *Vetus Partners*
- Investment in Canopy Financial *Financial Technology Partners*
- Merger of Boston Rack and Base Manufacturing to form Elite Storage Solutions *Newbury Piret & Company*
- Recapitalization of Spencer N. Enterprises, Inc. *Smith Whiley & Company; Capital Point Partners; Parkway Capital Investors*
- Sale of Hudson Clothing controlling interest to Fireman Capital Partners and Webster Capital. *Houlihan Lokey*
- Strategic re-positioning of Ball Horticultural Company's European operations *City Capital Advisors*

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

- Acquisition of Aladdin Knowledge Systems by Affiliates of Vector Capital *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Acquisition of Dominion Technology Resources, Inc. by Qinetiq Group PLC *BB&T Capital Markets | Windsor Group*
- Acquisition of Holopack International Corporation by Olympus Partners *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Shred-it International, Inc. by Birch Hill Equity Partners Management Inc. and a consortium of Canadian and European private equity groups *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Sale of Custom House to Western Union *Financial Technology Partners*

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

- Acquisition of Hirsch Electronics by SCM Microsystems *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Acquisition of Nortel Network's Layer 4-7 Application Delivery Business by Radware *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Acquisition of Tenfore Systems by Morningstar *Marlin & Associates*

- Sale of Cookson Group plc's Hi-Tech Ceramics business to Süd-Chemie AG to Satisfy European Union Anti-trust Requirements *Vetus Partners*
- Strategic re-positioning of Ball Horticultural Company's European operations *City Capital Advisors*

Green/Environmental Deal of the Year

- Acquisition of Opti Solar by First Solar *Covington & Burling LLP*
- Acquisition of Shred-it International, Inc. by Birch Hill Equity Partners Management Inc. and a consortium of Canadian and European private equity groups *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Merger of Solar Works, Inc. and SolarWrights to create Alteris Renewables, Inc. *Riverside Partners*

Dealmaker of the Year

- Allan Siposs, *FMV Capital Markets, Inc.*
- Dr. Christian Pleister, *Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz*
- Jay K. Greyson, *Vetus Partners*
- John Rapisardi, *Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP*
- Kevin W. Shultz, *FTI Capital Advisors, unit of FTI Consulting*
- Steve McLaughlin, *Financial Technology Partners*
- Steven Braff, *The Braff Group*

Woman Dealmaker of the Year

- Christine LaFollette, *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
- Rachel Corn Kluge, *City Capital Advisors*
- Ute Lassnig, *Mummert & Company Corporate Finance*

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

- Acquisition and subsequent merger of Unilever's North American laundry detergent business with Huish Detergents, Inc. *Vestar Capital Partners*
- Acquisition of Arlington Tankers by General Maritime Corporation *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Merger of J.M. Smucker Co. with Folgers Coffee *City Capital Advisors*
- Restructuring of Chrysler *Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP*
- Restructuring of General Motors *Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP*
- Sale of Dynegy Inc's U.S. power plants to LS Power Associates LP *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
- Sale of Nortel CDMA Business to Ericsson *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

Sector Deal Categories:

Information Technology (\$100 mm and above)

- Acquisition of Aladdin Knowledge Systems by Affiliates of Vector Capital *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Acquisition of Digital Receiver Technology, Inc. by The Boeing Company *BB&T Capital Markets | Windsor Group*
- Acquisition of Orthodyne Electronics Corporation by Kulicke & Soffa Industries, Inc. *Houlihan Lokey*
- Sale of Motorola, Inc.'s Printrak biometric business unit to Sagem Sécurité *Imperial Capital, LLC*

Information Technology (Below \$100 mm)

- Acquisition of Crucial Security by Harris Corporation *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Digital Fusion, Inc. by Kratos Defense & Security Solutions *Imperial Capital LLC*
- Acquisition of Paragon Solutions Group by Forsythe Solutions Group *JD Ford & Company*
- Acquisition of Vhayu Technologies by Thomson Reuters *Marlin & Associates*
- Investment in Canopy Financial *Financial Technology Partners*
- Sale of Microstrategy, Inc.'s majority-owned subsidiary, Alarm.com Incorporated, to a consortium of investors led by ABS Capital Partners and Egis Capital Partners. *Imperial Capital, LLC*

Media, Entertainment or Telecom

- Acquisition of 10-K Wizard Technology, LLC by Morningstar, Inc. *Silverwood Partners, LLC*
- Acquisition of Nortel Network's Layer 4-7 Application Delivery Business by Radware *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Carve-out Divestiture of EMBARQ Corporation's Wholly-owned Embarq Logistics Subsidiary to KGP Telecommunications, Inc. *Vetus Partners*

Healthcare/Life Sciences (\$100 mm and above)

- Acquisition of Direvo Biotech AG by Bayer HealthCare AG *Mummert & Company Corporate Finance; TVM Capital*
- Acquisition of Holopack International Corporation by Olympus Partners *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Ranbaxy by Daiichi Sankyo *Religare Enterprises Ltd.*

Healthcare/Life Sciences (Below \$100 mm)

- Acquisition of Freedom Eldercare, Inc. by Webster Capital *The Braff Group*
- Acquisition of RX Solutions by Walgreen Health Initiatives *The Braff Group*
- Acquisition of Waipahu Town Pharmacy by Walgreens *Generational Equity*
- Divestitures of Divisions of Air Products Healthcare *The Braff Group*
- Investment in Canopy Financial *Financial Technology Partners*

Energy (includes alternative energy, etc.)

- Acquisition of PFR Engineering Systems by Petro-Chem Development Co., Inc. *Petro-Chem Development Co., Inc.*
- Acquisition of Turner Bros. Holdings, LLC, by Huntsman Gay Global Capital *Edgeview Partners*
- Merger of Solar Works, Inc. and SolarWrights to create Alteris Renewables, Inc. *Riverside Partners*
- 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.)

- Acquisition of Yellow Stone Club by Cross Harbor *Cross Harbor*
- Acquisition of Tropicana Casino and Resort by Carl Icahn and Investors *Black Diamond Capital Management*
- 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*
- Merger of US Logistics with Ranger International Services Group *Generational Equity*
- Sale of Motorola, Inc.'s Printrak biometric business unit to Sagem Sécurité *Imperial Capital, LLC*

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

- Acquisition of Arlington Tankers by General Maritime Corporation *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Sale of Foamex to MatlinPatterson *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
- Sale of Norwesco, Inc., a portfolio company of Allied Capital Corporation, to Olympus Partners *Robert W. Baird & Co.*

Industrial Manufacturing/Distribution (Below \$100 mm)

- Acquisition of Diaphorm Technologies, LLC by Ceradyne, Inc. *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Acquisition of Hirsch Electronics by SCM Microsystems *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Acquisition of Powertuff Corporation by Bronco Manufacturing and Crystal Ridge Partners *Generational Equity*
- Acquisition of Thomas & Betts Corporation's HDPE Pipe Extrusion Assets and H&H Aero by Bore Flex Industries Inc. *Morgan Joseph & Co. Inc.*
- Carve-out Divestiture of EMBARQ Corporation's Wholly-owned Embarq Logistics Subsidiary to KGP Telecommunications, Inc. *Vetus Partners*
- Merger of Boston Rack and Base Manufacturing to form Elite Storage Solutions *Newbury Piret & Company*
- Sale of Cookson Group plc's Hi-Tech Ceramics business to Süd-Chemie AG to Satisfy European Union Anti-trust Requirements *Vetus Partners*
- Sale of Morton Welding Division of BHM Technologies to Local Investor Group *FTI Capital Advisors, unit of FTI Consulting*

Industrial Goods and Basic Resources

- Acquisition of Digital Fusion, Inc. by Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc. *Imperial Capital, LLC*
- Acquisition of Holopack International Corporation by Olympus Partners *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Thomas & Betts Corporation's HDPE Pipe Extrusion Assets and H&H Aero by Bore Flex Industries Inc. *Morgan Joseph & Co. Inc.*

Financial Services (institutional or consumer services)

- Acquisition of Innovest Strategic Value Advisors, Inc. by RiskMetrics Group, Inc. *Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP*
- Investment in Canopy Financial *Financial Technology Partners*
- Sale of Custom House to Western Union *Financial Technology Partners*

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

- Acquisition of Earthbound Farm by HM Capital *Houlihan Lokey*
- Acquisition of Van Zeeland, Inc. by The Millwork Trading Co. *Financo, Inc.*
- Merger of J.M. Smucker Co. with Folgers Coffee *City Capital Advisors*
- Sale of Recycled Paper Greetings to American Greetings *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*

Consumer and Retail Products (Below \$100 mm)

- Acquisition of Filene's Basement, Inc. by Syms Corp.
- Acquisition of Ritz Camera Centers, Inc. by RCI Acquisition, LLC
- Acquisition of We R Memory Keepers, Inc. by Mariner Capital Partners
- Recapitalization of Spencer N. Enterprises, Inc.
- Sale of Hudson Clothing, LLC controlling interest to Fireman Capital Partners and Webster Capital.

Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated
SSG Capital Advisors, LLC
FMV Capital Markets

Smith Whiley & Company;
Capital Point Partners;
Parkway Capital Investors
Houlihan Lokey

Professional Services (\$100 mm and above)

- Acquisition of BearingPoint North American Public Services Business by Deloitte
- Acquisition of Dominion Technology Resources, Inc. by Qinetiq Group PLC
- Acquisition of Shred-it International, Inc. by Birch Hill Equity Partners Management Inc. and a consortium of Canadian and European private equity groups
- Alternative Asset Management Acquisition Corp in its business combination with Great American Group
- Sale of Custom House to Western Union

Houlihan Lokey;
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
BB&T Capital Markets
| Windsor Group
Imperial Capital, LLC

Financo, Inc.

Financial Technology Partners

Professional Services (Below \$100 mm)

- Acquisition of CAV International by Ranger International Services Group
- Acquisition of Jan-Pro Holdings by an investor group led by Webster Capital
- Acquisition of Paragon Solutions Group by Forsythe Solutions Group
- Acquisition of Spirit Express Trucking by American Transport Services
- Carve-out Divestiture of EMBARQ Corporation's Wholly-owned Embarq Logistics Subsidiary to KGP Telecommunications, Inc.
- Merger of US Logistics with Ranger International Services Group

Generational Equity

Edgeview Partners

JD Ford & Company

Generational Equity

Vetus Partners

Generational Equity

- Sale of Standard & Poor's Vista Research to Guidepoint Global

Marlin & Associates

Firm/Product Categories:

Investment Banking Firm of the Year

- Generational Equity
- Houlihan Lokey
- Raymond James
- Robert W. Baird & Co.

Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year

- Financial Technology Partners
- Marlin & Associates
- SSG Capital Advisors, LLC
- The Braff Group
- Mummert & Company Corporate Finance
- Vetus Partners

Law Firm of the Year

- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
- Herrick, Feinstein LLP
- Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Valuation Firm of the Year

- Empire Valuation Consultants, LLC
- FMV Opinions, Inc.
- Houlihan Lokey

M&A Product/Service of the Year

- Bridge Capital Associates, Inc. provides FINRA, SEC and state broker registration services for M&A professionals
- Merrill Datasite Virtual Data Room
- V-Rooms Virtual Data Room

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