



THE M&A
ATLAS
AWARDS

5th Annual

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Announcing:

OUTSTANDING FIRMS & DEALS
of the YEAR
WINNERS, 2016

October 26, 2016: Global M&A Network congratulates distinguished winners of the one and only, 5th Annual EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST and AFRICA M&A ATLAS AWARDS.

“We are delighted to continue the tradition of excellence and acknowledge top value-generating deals and outstanding firm of the year winners. The winners have achieved high standard of performance for executing deals and represent the very best from the industry. We wish them many success for the year ahead.” Shanta Kumari, chief executive officer and global group editor at Global M&A Network.

FIRM AWARDS: Eighteen (18) outstanding firms are acknowledged in the major categories of EMEA, Europe, Middle East and Africa firms; along with twenty-four (24) outstanding M&A firms from the Regional European middle market deal communities. Our firm selection process is superior based on firm’s key role as an advisor, track record for executing top transactions, team leadership, expertise, client service, and year-to-year performance improvements.

DEAL AWARDS: Six transactions including Shell acquisition of BG, Nokia acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent, Lafarge-Holcim merger, and Blackstone-KIRKBI buyout of Armacell, won in the four unique categories of Europe Major Markets Deal of the Year awards. DP World acquisition of Economic Zones World FZE won the Middle East Deal and Brait acquisition of New Look Retail won in the Africa Deal of the Year Major Market segments. Twelve (12) middle markets transaction are acknowledged - six deals in Europe, three transactions each in the Middle East and Africa Deal of the Year categories.

PRESTIGE: Winning the EMEA M&A ATLAS AWARDS equates to achieving the “*Gold Standard of Performance*” seal of endorsement locally, regionally and globally since the winners are selected independently for executing deals, record, expertise and leadership.

Kindly contact us per awards logo, info on firm editorial write-up, or general enquiries:
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about: Global M&A Network is a diversified digital media, information and world-class connecting company, headquarter in New York, USA. The company produces educational forums and the world’s most prestigious **M&A ATLAS AWARDS** - from New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Mumbai to London.

Top 50: Europe M&A
★ dealmakers

M&A dealmakers spotlight

M&A ★ dealmakers

global M&A network
perfecting global opportunities



CONGRATULATIONS:

**OUTSTANDING FIRMS & BEST DEALS *of the* YEAR
WINNERS | 2016**

**OUTSTANDING
PRIVATE EQUITY
FIRM *of the* YEAR | WINNERS**

EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR
WINNER: CVC Capital Partners

EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR | Middle Markets
WINNER: Ardian Mid Cap Buyout

MENA PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR
WINNER: The Abraaj Group

AFRICA PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR
WINNER: Helios Investment Partners

MIDDLE EAST PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM *of the* YEAR
WINNER: Standard Chartered Private Equity

Selection Criteria: (1) Notable transactions closed during the stated timeframe including any acquisitions and deals executed by the portfolio companies; (2) Respective markets expertise, investment strategy, team leadership, plus transactional track record.

EMEA (*Europe, Middle East & Africa*)

**OUTSTANDING M&A
FIRM *of the* YEAR | WINNERS**

EMEA INVESTMENT BANK *of the* YEAR
WINNER: Goldman Sachs

EMEA LAW FIRM *of the* YEAR
WINNER: Linklaters

EMEA ACCOUNTING & TAX ADVISOR *of the* YEAR
WINNER: Ernst & Young

Selection Criteria: (1) Notable major to mid-market transactions closed during the stated timeframe involving wider European, Middle East and Africa markets and counter-parties; (2) EMEA markets expertise, transactional track record, team leadership, and client service.

NOTE: OUTSTANDING FIRM AWARD WINNERS editorial profiles will be posted on soon to be launched EMEA M&A Awards web-site.

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EUROPE

**OUTSTANDING M&A
FIRM *of the* YEAR | WINNERS**

EUROPE INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: Rothschild

EUROPE LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Allen & Overy

EUROPE INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR | Mid to Small Market Segments
WINNER: ALANTRA (formerly N+1)

EUROPE LAW FIRM
of the YEAR | Mid to Small Market Segments
WINNER: Dentons

EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY
FINANCIAL ADVISOR *of the* YEAR | Mid-Markets
WINNER: PwC Corporate Finance

EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY
LAW FIRM *of the* YEAR | Mid-Markets
WINNER: Clifford Chance

Selection Criteria: (1) Notable transactions closed during the stated timeframe involving the continental European markets and counter-parties; (2) European markets expertise, transactional track record, team leadership, and client service.

AFRICA

**OUTSTANDING M&A
FIRM *of the* YEAR | WINNERS**

AFRICA INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: Standard Bank Group

AFRICA LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: ENSafrica

Selection Criteria: (1) Notable transactions closed during the stated timeframe involving the wider African markets and counter-parties; (2) African markets expertise, transactional track record, team leadership, and client service.

MIDDLE EAST

**OUTSTANDING M&A
FIRM *of the* YEAR | WINNERS**

MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: HSBC

MIDDLE EAST LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Selection Criteria: (1) Notable transactions closed during the stated timeframe involving the wider Middle East markets and counter-parties; (2) Middle East markets expertise, transactional track record, team leadership, and client service.

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**EUROPE REGIONAL
OUTSTANDING M&A
FIRM *of the* YEAR | WINNERS**

BENELUX INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: ING

CEE INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: UniCredit

FRANCE INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: BNP Paribas

ITALY INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: MedioBanca

GERMANY INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: Lincoln International

NORDIC INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: Nordea

RUSSIA INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: VTB Capital

SPAIN INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: Eurohold SL

TURKEY INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: Unlu & Co

BENELUX INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: NautaDutilh

CEE LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: CMS

FRANCE LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Gide Loyrette Nouel

ITALY LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Chiomenti Studio Legal

GERMANY LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Noerr

NORDIC LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Roschier

RUSSIA LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Goltsblat BLP

SPAIN LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Cuatrecasas Goncalves Pereira

TURKEY LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Herguner Bilgen Ozeke

Regional Firm Performance Evaluation Criteria: (1) Outcome of reviewing lead advisor role in executing best mid-market deals involving respective regions; (2) Year to year improvement volume and values; (3) Respective local markets expertise, team leadership, track record and client service.

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WINNERS | 2016**

**UNITED KINGDOM
OUTSTANDING FIRM
of the YEAR | WINNERS**

UNITED KINGDOM
PRIVATE EQUITY FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: LDC

UNITED KINGDOM INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR
WINNER: Barclays

UNITED KINGDOM INVESTMENT BANK
of the YEAR | Mid to Small Market Segments
WINNER: Catalyst Corporate Finance

UNITED KINGDOM
ACCOUNTING & TAX
ADVISOR *of the* YEAR
WINNER: Grant Thornton

UNITED KINGDOM LAW FIRM
of the YEAR
WINNER: Slaughter and May

UNITED KINGDOM LAW FIRM
of the YEAR | Mid to Small Market Segments
WINNER: DLA Piper

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MAJOR MARKETS

DEAL *of the* YEAR | WINNERS

EUROPE DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Above \$25 billion.*

WINNER: Royal Dutch Shell acquisition of BG Group.

Acknowledgements: Royal Dutch Shell, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Slaughter & May.

EUROPE DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Above \$1 billion, below \$25 billion.*

WINNER: Nokia acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent.

Acknowledgements: Nokia, J.P Morgan, Zaoui & Co, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, Sullivan & Cromwell.

EUROPE CORPORATE DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: Lafarge and Holcim merger, including divestment of select assets to CRH.

Acknowledgements: LafargeHolcim, Goldman Sachs, Rothschild, Zaoui & Co, BNP Paribas, Credit Suisse, HSBC, Morgan Stanley, UBS, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Linklaters, Bär & Karrer, Homburger, Arthur Cox.

EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: The Blackstone Group and KIRKBI A/S acquisition of Armacell from Charterhouse.

Acknowledgements: Blackstone Group, KIRKBI.

Europe Selection Standards: Transformational transactions closed any time – February 2015 through February 2016, involving a counterparty from continental European regions, deal size value above a billion USD.

MIDDLE EAST DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: DP World acquisition of Economic Zones World FZE from Port and Free Zone World.

Acknowledgements: DP World, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Moelis & Company, Clifford Chance.

Middle East Selection Standards: Transformational transactions closed any time – February 2015 to February 2016, involving a counterparty from the broader Middle Eastern regions, deal size value above a billion USD.

AFRICA DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: Brait acquisition of New Look Retail Group.

Acknowledgements: Brait, Nomura, Rand Merchant, Standard Bank, Linklaters, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr.

Africa Selection Standards: Transformational transactions closed any time – February 2015 to February 2016, involving a counterparty from the African regions, deal size value above a billion USD.

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EUROPE

**DEAL *of the* YEAR *Middle Markets*
WINNERS**

EUROPE DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Large Mid-Market Segment*

WINNER: Sweco acquisition of Grontmij.

Acknowledgements: Sweco, ABN AMRO, Nordea, ING, Allen & Overy, Cederquist.

EUROPE DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Mid-Market Segment*

WINNER: Ferrero Group acquisition of Thorntons.

Acknowledgements: Ferrero Group, Rothschild, Investec, Berwin Leighton Paisner, Shoosmiths.

EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Mid-Market Segment*

WINNER: Ardian acquisition of Siaci Saint-Honoré.

Acknowledgements: Ardian, Credit Suisse, Latham & Watkins.

EUROPE PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Small Mid-Market Segment*

WINNER: GIMV investment stake in Joolz.

Acknowledgements: GIMV, Roth Capital.

CROSS BORDER DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Large Mid-Market Segment*

WINNER: Amadeus IT Group acquisition of Navitair.

Acknowledgements: Amadeus, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom.

CROSS BORDER DEAL *of the* YEAR | *Mid-Market Segment*

WINNER: Clinigen Group acquisition of Link Healthcare.

Acknowledgements: Clinigen Group, BDO Corporate Finance, Numis Securities.

MENA

**DEAL *of the* YEAR *Middle Markets*
WINNERS**

MENA DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: Helios Investment Partners, Egyptian-American Enterprise Fund and MENA Long-Term Value Fund investor group acquisition stake in Fawry.

Acknowledgements: Fawry, Helios Investment Partners, Egyptian-American Enterprise Fund, MENA LTV Fund, EFG Hermes, Norton Rose Fulbright.

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MIDDLE EAST

**DEAL *of the* YEAR *Middle Markets*
WINNERS**

MIDDLE EAST DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: NMC Health acquisition of ProVita International Medical Center.

Acknowledgements: NMC Health, HSBC, Clyde & Co.

MIDDLE EAST PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: Standard Chartered Private Equity led acquisition stake in Nuqul Group FINE Hygienic.

Acknowledgements: Standard Chartered Private Equity, Trussbridge Advisory.

CROSS BORDER DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: Rocket Internet acquisition of Talabat General Trading and Contracting Company.

Acknowledgements: Rocket Internet, King & Spalding, Meysan Partners.

AFRICA

**DEAL *of the* YEAR *Middle Markets*
WINNERS**

AFRICA DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: SAHAM Finances, subsidiary of SAHAM Group acquisition stake in Continental Reinsurance from Emerging Capital Partners and investors.

Acknowledgements: Saham Group, Emerging Capital Partners, African Capital Alliance.

AFRICA PRIVATE EQUITY DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: Duet Africa Private Equity acquisition of Société Africaine des Produits Laitiers et Derives (SAPLED) from Sifaoui Group.

Acknowledgements: Duet Africa Private Equity.

CROSS BORDER DEAL *of the* YEAR

WINNER: Truworths International acquisition of Office Retail Group.

Acknowledgements: Truworths, Goldman Sachs, ENSafrica, Shoosmiths.

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