

Corporate Team of the Year

WINNER

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD

Dan Walsh

The cross-border deal that keeps on giving

This is the sort of mandate that firms would die for – spread globally it shows off the sorts of skills needed to compete at the very top of global M&A in 2012. Led from London, the team at Akin Gump advised Vimpelcom across 20 different jurisdictions on its combination with Wind Telecom to create the sixth largest mobile telecommunications carrier by subscribers, with net operating revenues of \$21.5bn.

This was a genuinely complex multi-jurisdictional regulatory and competition deal that saw English court litigation put down a shareholder revolt at Telenor, as well as public company proxy contests. The deal was completed against the backdrop of the Arab Spring. As a result, completing the initial acquisition and the follow on transactions in Tunisia and Egypt made life daunting for the team. Undeterred, the team saw through the split of Egyptian-listed and Algerian-owned Orascom being split into two companies, requiring the passing of new regulation specifically for the deal that rumbles on as it jumps through various regulatory hoops. Akin Gump is at the top of its game when it comes to cross-border telecoms and energy work and this deal underlines its potency.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

ALLEN & OVERY

Andrew Ballheimer

With all eyes on emerging markets and cross-border M&A it was a UK domestic deal that stole the headlines in 2011. Virgin Money's acquisition of Northern Rock for £747m was the first post-financial crisis disposal by the government.

CMS CAMERON McKENNA

Sandra Rafferty

CMS acted for Takeda Pharmaceutical on its €9.6bn acquisition of Nycomed. It was the second-largest deal ever completed by a Japanese pharma company outside of Japan.

PAUL HASTINGS

Ronan O'Sullivan

The US firm in London shed its dark horse image when it advised Jacobs Engineering on the acquisition of the Oslo-listed Aker Solutions for over \$900m, including cash and debt adjustments.

'Akin Gump is at the top of its game when it comes to cross-border telecoms and energy work.'



(L-R) Sebastian Rice and Fred Heller of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, with Cogence Search's Mark Husband

PINSENT MASONS

Paul Amiss; Rob Hutchings

It's been rare to see genuine reverse takeovers in the UK over the past couple of years but Pinsents scored a cracker, showing that it can manage large cross-border deals from its London HQ. The firm advised Horizon Acquisition on the acquisition of US-based global temporary power provider APR Energy for \$855m.

SALANS

Zarko Iankov

In a prime example of international investment into the UK, Salans advised Sahaviriya Steel Industries in the acquisition of a steel and coke production facility in Redcar for \$468m from Tata Steel that completed in seven months on a 3,000-acre mothballed manufacturing site.

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM

Michael Hatchard; Scott Simpson

Represented Colfax on its £1.5bn acquisition of Charter International in Jersey. The white knights fought off an intense hostile bid that saw interest from rival Melrose; it was described in press coverage as a game changer for the industry. The announcement of the deal also straddled the implementation of the new Takeover Panel rules.



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Search**

Congratulations to

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

Corporate Team of the Year

**It takes real talent
to strike gold
every time.**

**Absolute precision.
Their clients expected
nothing less. Why
should you?**

Our lead consultants each have at least 10 years' private practice experience. They only provide search services in the sectors in which they practised. That's how we substantiate our claim that we understand your business and know precisely who you are looking for.

Our years of private practice experience and our talented specialist consultants provide a clear advantage to our clients - we not only know our markets, we know many of the most influential individuals personally. Contact us for a precise and informed search solution.

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