

Finance Team of the Year

WINNER

DEWEY & LEBOEUF

Amanda Jennings; Bruce Johnston

An impressive role on the first LBO since 2008

This formidable team really showed its true strength acting on the largest leveraged buyout (LBO) in Europe in the last three years. The US firm's London office advised Spartan Capital, an investment vehicle indirectly controlled by Polish media mogul Zygmunt Solorz-Zak, on its €4.4bn LBO of Polkomtel. This deal had people talking not only about its value, particularly during a difficult period for the buyout market but also its structure. Dewey & LeBoeuf played an integral part in the deal acting for Spartan on all of the financing for the acquisition, which included a €3.6bn debt financing package and equity provided by the investor.

The package included the issue of a \$1.2bn high-yield bond, which successfully went to market and granted Spartan the funding it needed. Although the funding followed several months of intense M&A negotiations, the team had just five weeks to complete all the documentation needed for the financing and security packages. Dewey also prepared the documentation for the equity finance, the interest rate and currency swaps and the amendments to the finance documentation to assist syndication.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

ASHURST

Jane Fissenden; Nigel Ward

Ashurst's impressive team took the lead role advising a consortium on the direct and indirect financing of the acquisition of a 24.1% interest in the Gassled joint venture from Norway's Statoil Petroleum.

HERBERT SMITH

Matthew Job; Nadim Khan

Herbert Smith acted for mandated lead arrangers Citibank, Emirates NBD, Commercial Bank of Dubai and Dubai Islamic Bank on the \$800m Salik toll road receivables financing, dedicating a stellar team of partners from both London and Dubai.

LATHAM & WATKINS

Christopher Kandel

Taking a prominent role on the leveraged buyout of Polkomtel by Spartan Capital, Latham & Watkins stepped in to represent global co-ordinators Deutsche Bank, Crédit Agricole and a consortium of



(L-R) Dewey & LeBoeuf's Amanda Jennings, CLS Communication's Carol Lagler-Kolusheva, and Dewey's Bruce Johnston

other lead arrangers on the €3.6bn debt financing package for the deal.

LINKLATERS

Brian Gray; Alexander Naidenov

Linklaters compiled a mammoth team of lawyers from 11 offices to advise on the financing for the purchase of Evonik's carbon black business by private equity houses Rhone and Triton.

SIMMONS & SIMMONS

Philip Abbott

This finance heavy hitter acted for BlueCrest Capital Management on the acquisition by its partners of Man Group's 25.5% stake in the BlueCrest group for \$633m.

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES

Jacky Kelly

This standout US firm worked to create an innovative funding structure for client Zenith Provecta Group to help fund its future growth and development.

WHITE & CASE

Stuart Matty

Another strong year for the finance team at White & Case saw the firm act for the Republic of Namibia on its debut \$500m rule 144A international bond issue.

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CLS Communication would like to congratulate all the winners at the Legal Business Awards on their achievement.

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