

## DEALS

**Advent International**, agreed to acquire a majority stake in **GFKL Financial Services AG**, a debt collection business based in Germany, from a consortium of institutional investors for an undisclosed price.

**ApoCell Inc.**, a Houston, Texas-based provider of molecular diagnostics, has raised an undisclosed amount of private equity funding from **Summit Partners**.

European private equity shop **Argos Soditic** has acquired a majority stake in **Misapor**, a Surava, Switzerland-based maker of foam glass granulate for the European construction market. The deal was structured as a management buyout.

**ASP Westward**, a community newspaper publisher owned by **American Securities**, has agreed to acquire two Texas newspapers from Cox Enterprises Inc. No financial terms were disclosed. The papers are the *Longview News-Journal* (Longview) and *The Marshall News Messenger* (Marshall and Harrison County).

**Avalon Group Limited**, a private equity firm based in New York, has agreed to acquire a majority stake in **Domestic Energy Corporation**, a Honeoye, N.Y.-based OTC-listed oil and gas exploration company.

**Black Diamond Capital Management** has been named the "stalking horse bidder" for **PTC Alliance**, a Wexford, Pa.-based maker of steel tubing and rods that filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

**The Blackstone Group** has agreed to buy **Anheuser-Busch InBev's** U.S. theme parks for up to \$2.7 billion. Senior debt is being provided by BofA Merrill Lynch, Barclays Capital, Deutsche Bank Securities, Goldman Sachs Loan Partners and Mizuho Corporate Bank. The deal would add 10 parks – including three SeaWorld locations and two Busch Gardens parks – to Blackstone's existing amusement assets, which includes Madame Tussauds wax museums, Legoland and the London Eye Ferris wheel.

**Bloomberg LP** is being viewed as the leading bidder for *BusinessWeek*, which is being shopped by owner McGraw Hill Cos. (NYSE: MHP). Other bidders include **Platinum**

**Equity** and **ZelnickMedia**. **OpenGate Capital** had also been vying for the business but dropped out of the process earlier in October.

**Brocade Communications Systems Inc.** (Nasdaq: BRCD) has put itself up for sale, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Possible bidders include HP and Oracle. The company's stock rose more than 18 percent on the news, bringing its market cap to approximately \$3.81 billion.

**Capital Partners Inc.** has sponsored a recapitalization of **AMES Inc.**, a Wilmington, N.C.-based provider of maintenance project and workforce management solutions to the U.S. commercial nuclear power industry. No financial terms were disclosed. Cobblestone Harris Williams advised AMES on the transaction.

**The Carlyle Group** and **3i Group** reportedly are among those in preliminary talks to acquire a minority stake in the injectables business of Indian drug maker **Strides Arcolab**. The deal is expected to be worth between \$170 million and \$200 million, with Lazard managing the process.

**Clayton Dubilier & Rice** has agreed to sponsor a recapitalization of **JohnsonDiversey**, a Racine, Wis.-based commercial cleaning company. Under terms of the agreement, CD&R would invest \$477 million for a 46 percent stake. Unilever, which bought a 33 percent stake in JohnsonDiversey seven years ago, would retain a 4 percent interest.

**ConvergEx**, a New York-based provider of global agency brokerage and investment technology solutions, has agreed to acquire the assets of **Cogent Consulting LLC**, a software development firm specializing in advanced commission management. No financial terms were disclosed. ConvergEx was formed in 2006 by **GTCR Golder-Rauner**, which combined Eze Castle Software and the institutional brokerage business of Bank of New York.

**Cortec Group** has acquired a majority interest in **Katena Products Inc.**, a Denville, N.J.-based maker of micro instruments for ophthalmic surgeries of the anterior segment of the eye. No financial terms were disclosed. Investment bank The Walden Group represented Katena Products.

**Delphi Midstream Partners**, an acquisition platform sponsored by **American Securities**, has agreed to acquire a Tarrant County, Texas-based natural gas gathering and compression system (Mansfield System) from **Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc.** No financial terms were disclosed except that DMP will invest up to \$100 million to further develop the system.

**Deutsche Wohnen** (DE: DWNG), a German real estate company, said that it is unaware of any takeover plans by **Oaktree Capital Management**. The company's stock rose nearly 5 percent on trader talks that Oaktree either planned to increase its stake in the company or attempt a buyout.

**DOCUgroup**, a provider of business information to the European construction sector, has acquired the Nordic assets of **Reed Business Information**. No financial terms were disclosed. DOCUgroup is a portfolio company of **GMT Communications Partners**.

**Energy Futures Holding Corp.** said that it will offer to exchange up to \$4 billion of new notes for outstanding notes to extend maturities and reduce debt. The company, formerly known as TXU, was acquired in 2007 by **Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.**, **TPG** and **GS Capital Partners**.

**Environmental Capital Partners** has acquired a majority stake in **Cascade Drilling LP**, a provider of environmental drilling services for water and soil assessment, monitoring and remediation purposes on the West Coast. No pricing terms were disclosed. PNC Business Credit arranged the leveraged financing, while Cascade was advised by Morgan Stanley.

**EQT Partners** has agreed to buy **HTL Strefa**, a publicly-traded Poland-based maker of medical equipment, for approximately \$310 million.

**GF Capital** and **Stockton Road Capital** have acquired **Airborne Inc.**, a Minneapolis-based maker of dietary supplements for bolstering the immune system. No financial terms were disclosed. Sawaya Segalas & Co. advised Airborne on the sale.

**GFI Software**, a U.K.-based portfolio company of **Insight Venture Partners**, has acquired **Katharion**, a Los Angeles-based provider of hosted email filtering solutions. No finan-

cial terms were disclosed.

**Golden Gate Capital** has acquired **Devcon Security**, a Hollywood, Fla.-based provider of installation, monitoring and related electronic security services. No financial terms were disclosed. Devcon had been publicly traded on the OTC bulletin board until deregistering its securities last October.

**HHI Holdings LLC**, a portfolio company of **KPS Capital Partners**, has completed its acquisition of the assets of **FormTech Industries LLC**, via a prepackaged bankruptcy process. FormTech makes forged metal automotive components, and employs around 400 people in Michigan and Ohio.

**JO Hambro Capital Management** has acquired **Celsis International**, a Chicago-based contract research firm for the global life sciences market. The deal was valued at approximately £55 million, and will result in Celsis de-listing from the London Stock Exchange.

**Lime Rock Partners** has invested \$55 million into **ITS Group**, a global provider of oil-field equipment and services, in exchange for a minority ownership position.

**Mid Europa Partners** has agreed to acquire **Invitel Holdings AS** (AMEX: IHO), a fixed-line telecom and broadband internet services provider in the Republic of Hungary. The deal would involve three separate transactions: Mid Europa would pay \$10.8 million to TDC AS for its 64.6 percent stake in Invitel; Mid Europa would purchase all of TDC's rights and obligations under a €34.1 million subordinated PIK loan (which would be increased up to €91.4 million); and Mid Europa would launch a tender offer for the outstanding €125 million floating rate senior PIK notes due 2013, which are held by Invitel.

**Navigation Capital Partners** has sponsored a recapitalization of portfolio company **Five Star Food Service**, a Chattanooga, Tenn.-based provider of vending, coffee and food services. The deal increases Navigation Capital's majority stake, although no financial terms were disclosed.

**Novera Energy** (LSE: NOEN), a British renewable energy company, rejected a £90.5 million cash buyout offer from **Infinis Energy**, a portfolio company of **Terra Firma Capital**

**Partners**. This is the second time that Novera has rebuffed an Infinis approach.

**NXP Semiconductors** has agreed to swap its TV and set-top box chip assets for a 60 percent stake in **Trident Microsystems** (Nasdaq: TRID). The deal includes NXP also purchasing 6.7 million new shares in Trident at \$4.50 per share (\$30.15m). NXP is the former semiconductor division of Philips electronics, which was bought in 2006 by **Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.**, **Bain Capital**, **Apax Partners**, **Alinvest Partners** and **Silver Lake**.

**Oak Hill Capital Partners** and **CCMP Capital Partners** have submitted bids to acquire discount retailer **Grocery Outlet**, according to the *NY Post*. Goldman Sachs is running the process, which is expected to fetch around \$400 million.

**Olympus Capital Investments** has sponsored a recapitalization of **J.W. Hulme Co.**, a St. Paul, Minn.-based maker of leather and canvas bags and accessories. No financial terms were disclosed.

**Panolam Industries**, a Shelton, Conn.-based decorative laminate company, said that it has reached a debt restructuring agreement with lenders led by **Apollo Capital Management**. The deal would include a prepackaged debt-for-equity swap. **Genstar Capital** and **Sterling Group** bought Panolam for \$345 million in 2005.

**Park Resorts**, a U.K.-based caravan parks company owned by **GI Partners**, has reached a £325 million debt restructuring deal with its lenders. GI would retain control, but lenders would receive a 5 percent equity stake.

**Plantronics Inc.** (NYSE: PLT) has agreed to sell its audio entertainment group (Altec Lansing) to **Prophet Equity** for approximately \$18 million in cash.

**Quad-C Management** is in talks to invest in Chicago-based **Cloverhill Bakery**, according to *LBO Wire*. The deal would include around \$150 million in senior debt from Madison Capital Funding, GE Capital and BMO Capital Markets, plus junior debt from Audax Group's mezzanine unit.

**The Riverside Co.** has acquired **Crioestaminal**, a Cantanhede, Portugal-

based umbilical cord blood collection company. No financial terms were disclosed. The deal was done out of Riverside's fourth European fund.

**Sage Holdings**, a financial and stakeholder communications company backed by **The Riverside Co.**, has acquired **Donlin, Recano & Company Inc.**, a New York-based provider of bankruptcy administration services. No financial terms were disclosed.

**Sally Beauty Holdings Inc.** (NYSE: SBH) has acquired beauty products distributor **Schoeneman Beauty Supply Inc.** for approximately \$61 million. **Clayton Dubilier & Rice** acquired a 48 percent equity stake in Sally Beauty three years ago for \$575 million.

**Starwood Capital Group** and **TPG** have won the auction for the assets of failed **Corus Bank**, according to *Reuters*. The consortium, which also includes **WL Ross & Co.** and **Perry Capital**, would invest around \$554 million for a 40 percent stake in the assets (FDIC would hold remainder).

**Starwood Capital Group** is leading a group of lenders interested in taking control of hotel chain **Extended Stay**, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. **Fortress Investment Group** and D.E. Shaw also are part of the group.

**Sterling Partners** and **CPP Pension Plan** have agreed to acquire **Canadian logistics services provider Livingston International Income Fund** (TSX: LIV), for approximately C\$225.3 million. Livingston unitholders would receive C\$8 per unit. Sterling would hold a 60 percent stake following the transaction, with CPP holding the remainder.

**Stream Global Services Inc.** (AMEX: OOO) has completed its merger with the parent company of **eTelecare Global Solutions Inc.** The stock-for-stock exchange results in Stream shareholders owning 57.5 percent of the combined call center company, and eTelecare shareholders holding 42.5 percent. eTelecare was taken private last December by **Providence Equity Partners**.

**TA Associates** has paid more than \$200 million to buy a minority stake in **AVG Technologies**, an Amsterdam-based provider of computer security software, from existing company shareholders. Joining TA on the deal were **Benson Oak**