

## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## IMAP EUROPE NAMED TO SHORTLIST OF FINALISTS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISER OF THE YEAR FOR 2008 EUROPEAN PRIVATE EQUITY AWARDS

LONDON (September 16, 2008) ---- The European members of IMAP (IMAP Europe) have been named to the shortlist of finalists for consideration for Financial Adviser of the Year for the 2008 European Private Equity Awards.

The sixth edition of the annual awards, which are organized and hosted by Real Deals and the European Venture Capital Association, are the most rigorous and coveted awards of their kind in Europe. As private equity continues growing across the continent, the awards continue to showcase and recognize the breadth and depth of deal-making taking place during the past 12 months.

“The member firms that comprise IMAP Europe have enjoyed a very busy and successful year in 2008, and they are very proud to be recognized as one of the finalists on the shortlist for consideration for this prestigious award,” said Karl Fesenmeyer, IMAP chairman and managing director of the IMAP office in Mannheim, Germany. “On behalf of all of the nearly 60 member firms of IMAP across the globe, we congratulate all of our European partners and wish them luck in the competition.”

IMAP firms are leaders in their respective markets and regions. The member firms are specialists in middle-market corporate finance transactions for clients ranging from private family-owned companies to large domestic and multinational enterprises, private equity firms and institutional investors.

The largest organization of independent M&A advisory firms in the world, IMAP has 29 offices in 23 countries across east-, west- and central-Europe and Scandinavia. It provides creative solutions for middle-market M&A advisory services through a partnership of hand-selected international firms that offer an exceptional combination of global reach and commitment to the transaction. In 2007 and 2008, European IMAP member firms advised on 191 transactions worth a combined total of €3.6 billion, including 68 private equity transactions. The IMAP culture for cooperation between offices creates stronger bonds between advisors and results in better performance in connecting buyers and sellers throughout the world.

The Financial Adviser of the Year award is open to investment banks, the corporate finance arms of accounting firms, and independent corporate finance houses. The judges base their decisions on the added value that advisors provide to their clients in private equity-related transactions, as well as their overall professionalism and innovation in deal structures. The recipients of these pan-European awards will be decided by a distinguished panel of industry pioneers, and approximately 300 private equity professionals will attend the ceremony and presentations on November 21, 2008, at the InterContinental Grand in Paris.

### **About IMAP:**

IMAP is an exclusive global organization of leading merger and acquisition advisory firms. Formed in 1973, IMAP is composed of 56 firms with 100 offices in 35 countries throughout North and South America, Eastern and Western Europe, Australia and Asia. IMAP transaction advisors completed 254 transactions in 2007 with an aggregate transaction value of \$9.95 billion.

IMAP advisors provide strategic merger, acquisition, divestiture and related corporate finance services. Sellers of mid-size companies and corporate acquirers alike rely upon IMAP for essential local market knowledge and industry expertise delivered with unparalleled global reach. More information is available via the Internet at [www.imap.com](http://www.imap.com)

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