

Press Release

Astorg Partners acquires the Swiss Group Metalor Technologies International SA (MTI)

PARIS/NEUCHÂTEL, September 21st, 2009 – Astorg Partners has signed a definitive agreement with a group of Swiss private investors, for the acquisition of a majority stake in Metalor Technologies International SA (MTI). The two largest investors will roll-over the totality of their proceeds into the new transaction. MTI's management team, led by its CEO Scott Morrison, will also become a significant shareholder along-side Astorg Partners.

The transaction is funded entirely in equity.

Founded in 1852 and headquartered in Neuchâtel (Switzerland), MTI is a world's leading refiner of gold and precious metals and advanced materials. MTI operates through 4 divisions and is specialized in the manufacturing of products and the supply of services based on precious metals.

MTI employs approximately 1,300 people from more than 10 different nationalities and operates 7 production facilities worldwide, of which 2 in Switzerland, 1 in France, 1 in China, 1 in Hong Kong and 2 in the United States. In 2008, the group generated net sales (excluding precious metals) of CHF 322 million and a consolidated EBITDA of CHF 74.6 million.

Joël Lacourte, Managing Partner of Astorg Partners, said : "MTI is a truly international group with differentiated and unique products and technologies. We are becoming the partner of choice of a management team that brings together different nationalities. This investment takes place in a very favourable timing. Subsequently to the current economic crisis, there will be a significant number of acquisition opportunities in the different fields in which MTI operates and the Group which benefits from a substantial amount of cash and an experienced team will be in an ideal position to be a key consolidator in these sectors."

Scott Morrison, CEO of MTI, commented: "We are very pleased to have our shareholder structure reinforced with Astorg Partner's entry into our capital as a majority shareholder in a long-term perspective. This is a significant positive step in the acceleration of the growth of MTI. Astorg Partners, which shares our vision, will help us further accelerate our acquisition strategy and meet our next challenge of growth in China. MTI's management team looks forward to working in close collaboration with Astorg Partners".

About MTI

MTI is a diversified industrial group specializing in the refining of precious metals and in the manufacturing of products containing precious metals.

For over 140 years (from 1864 to 1998), MTI was owned by UBS and beforehand, it was owned by several other banks. In 1998, the Group was sold by UBS to a group of Swiss private investors.

The Group operates through 4 divisions:

- **Refining** is specialized in recovering gold, silver, platinum group metals from a wide range of precious metal bearing materials. The division also provides analysis and evaluation services through its worldwide network of specialized centers, as well as financing precious metals work-in-progress items from its clients collecting secondary scrap materials. MTI is a worldwide co-leader in the refining of precious metals of secondary origin.
- **Advanced Coatings** manufactures and supplies electrolytic and electroless precious metal plating products and processes for electroplating applications. These products and solutions are used in a variety of applications such as electronic components, semiconductors, and decorative markets such as jewelry.
- **Electrotechnics** provides world's leading groups with high-conductivity electrical contacts (circuit breakers, switches, relays, etc.) derived from silver alloys.
- **Watches and Jewelry** is the oldest division of MTI, and supplies prominent Swiss luxury brands with complex and engineered alloys of precious metals which are intended for the production of watch cases, bracelets, clasps and other watch components.

About Astorg Partners

Astorg Partners is an independent fund management company, specializing in French mid-market buyouts. It currently manages over €1 billion of capital. Astorg Partners seeks to partner with successful and entrepreneurial management teams, to acquire businesses with attractive growth prospects, which Astorg will support through the provision of experienced governance and adequate capital. Astorg enjoys a distinct entrepreneurial culture, a lean and local decision-making body enhancing its reactivity, and a true commitment to its partnering management teams.

Although clearly a multi-sector investor, Astorg Partners has developed a strong industry expertise in the distribution (Sephora, Marc Orian, Frans Bonhomme, Un Jour Ailleurs), healthcare (Sebia, Pasteur-Cerba, Ethypharm), and professional services (Lowendal Group, RLD, CIS, Geoservices, Staci) sectors.

Deal Participants

Astorg Partners

Joël Lacourte, Jean-Hubert Vial, Sophie Pochard

Buyers' Advisors

Legal - M&A
Legal DD, Social DD and Legal - M&A

Lovells Paris: Alexis Terray, Edith Boucaya
Baker & McKenzie Zurich: Marcel Giger, Alexander Fischer

Tax DD

Arsene Taxand Paris / Tax Partner Zurich: Denis Andres, David Ryser

Financial M&A
Financial DD
Market DD

PWC Zurich: Martin Frey
Ernst & Young Paris: Paul Gerber, Stéphane Seguin
CVA Paris: Didier Pain, Benoît Pons

Sellers' Advisors

Legal and Tax

NKF: Peter Honegger, Thomas Graf

Contacts

Astorg Partners

Joël Lacourte
Tel: +33 (0)1 53 05 40 33
Email: jlacourte@astorg-partners.com

Jean-Hubert Vial
Tel: + 33 (0)1 53 05 40 41
Email: jhvial@astorg-partners.com

Metalor

Scott Morrison
Tel: + 41 (0) 32 720 61 11
Email: scott.morrison@metalor.com

Press Contact

Astorg Partners

Publicis Consultants
Stéphanie Tabouis / Robert Amady
Tel : +33 (0)1 57 32 86 88 / + 33 (0)1 57 32 85 33

Email: stephanie.tabouis@consultants.publicis.fr
robert.amady@consultants.publicis.fr