



Private Equity Firm Perseus LLC Deal Takes Top Honors at  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual M&A Advisor Awards  
*Investment Banking Firms Houlihan Lokey and FT Partners Score Big*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NEW YORK, December 11 – Private equity firm Perseus LLC took top honors from The M&A Advisor as sponsor of the US Middle-Market Deal of the Year for its sale of Maritime Telecommunications Network to SeaMobile, Inc. The transaction also garnered an M&A Advisor Award as Business to Business Deal of the Year. Other big winners at the annual ceremony included Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin, which took honors as Investment Banking Firm of the Year and saw two of the transactions it nominated win Deal of the Year honors in the Computer and Information Technology and Financial Services categories. San Francisco-based Financial Technology Partners was named Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year; received an award for its "IPO Advisory" package as M&A Product of the Year, and won honors for the Consumer Services Deal of the Year.

More than 350 middle-market mergers and acquisitions and corporate financing professionals gathered at the New York Athletic Club tonight to toast the top deals and dealmakers of the past year at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual M&A Advisor Awards Dinner. Hosted by The M&A Advisor, the gala, black-tie dinner was hosted by Becky Quick, co-anchor of CNBC's morning "Squawk Box" business news show.

"Once again, I am overwhelmed and gratified by the response to our Awards programs," said Roger Aguinaldo, founder, CEO, and publisher of The M&A Advisor, which produces conferences and information sources for middle-market business financing professionals.

The competition produced a record 130 finalists, from which 21 award winners were chosen. New this year were award categories for Financial Technology transactions and M&A Products. In addition, The M&A Advisor's Awards Nominations Committee, comprised of editorial staff and independent judges, divided the categories for investment banking and private equity firms in two categories each, according to size.

Honors for M&A professional firms were handed out first, followed by awards for transactions in various industry groupings. Concluding the evening were the presentations of awards for the top deals and dealmakers. The winners are listed below by category.

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## **About The M&A Advisor**

The M&A Advisor is an information provider and networking organization delivering services that provide executives, M&A professionals, and others about the intricate world of financing, buying and selling middle market companies. The company's products include The M&A ALERTS e-zine; The M&A Advisor Online (<http://www.maadvisor.com>); The M&A Advisor Conference series (<http://www.maadvisor.com/conference>); special reports, software, and publications; and consulting services. For further information, visit <http://www.maadvisor.com>, or call 1-877-99-MERGE (1-877-996-3743).

The M&A Advisor will present its Inaugural Turnaround Awards at a Conference it will host at the Colony in Palm Beach, Fla., on March 19, 2007. Its annual two-day Conference, incorporating the M&A Advisor Middle Market Financing Awards, will take place at the Standard Club in Chicago on June 25-26, 2007.

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# **The 5th Annual M&A Advisor Awards**

Award Winners

## **Major Awards**

### **U.S. Middle Market Deal of the Year**

Sale of Maritime Telecommunications Network to SeaMobile, Inc. by Perseus, LLC  
*Nominated by Perseus LLC*

### **International / Cross-Border Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Amazys Holding AG by X-Rite Inc. *Nominated by Headwaters MB*

### **U.S. Middle Market Deal Maker of the Year**

Scott Waxler; LockeBridge, LLC

### **Corporate Strategic Dealmaker of the Year**

Brady Corporation

## **Deals of the Year by Industry**

### **Business to Business Deal of the Year**

Sale of Maritime Telecommunications Network to SeaMobile, Inc. by Perseus, LLC  
*Nominated by Perseus LLC*

### **Computer and Information Technology Deal of the Year**

Sale of Advanced Power Technologies to Microsemi Corp.  
*Nominated by Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin*

### **Consumer Services Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Trintech's Outdoor Payments Business by Verifone, Inc.  
*Nominated by Financial Technology Partners*

### **Financial Services Deal of the Year**

Sale of LoanSTAR Funding Group, Inc. and the servicing assets of LoanSTAR Systems, Inc. by The Greater Texas Foundation to Nelnet, Inc.  
*Nominated by Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin*

### **Financial Technology Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Brainpower N.V. by Bloomberg L.P.  
*Nominated by Marlin & Associates New York LLC*

### **Life Sciences / Healthcare Deal of the Year**

Acquisition of Canadian Valley Medical Supplies by Walgreen Corp.  
*Nominated by The Braff Group*

### **Manufacturing – Consumer Deal of the Year**

Simultaneous Sale of Vi-Jon Laboratories, Inc. and Cumberland Swan Holdings, Inc. to Berkshire Partners  
*Nominated by Edgeview Partners*

### **Manufacturing – Industrial Deal of the Year**

Formation of GPX International Tire Corp.  
*Nominated by TM Capital Corp.*

## **Media and Telecommunications Deal of the Year**

Sale of Massive Incorporated to Microsoft Corporation  
*Nominated by Goodwin Procter LLP*

## **Retailing Deal of the Year**

Consolidation of Lunettes LLC, Morgenthal Frederics Opticians Inc., and Optical Fashion Center, Inc. to form Luxury Optical Holdings Co.  
*Nominated by Circle Peak Capital LLC*

## **Professional categories**

### **M&A Product of the Year**

“IPO Advisory” M&A Product Offering

### **Accounting Firm of the Year**

Deloitte & Touche

### **Investment Banking Firm of the Year**

Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin

### **Boutique Investment Banking Firm of the Year**

Financial Technology Partners

### **Private Equity Firm of the Year**

Castle Harlan & Castle Harlan Australian Mezzanine Partners

### **Boutique Private Equity Firm of the Year**

Eos Partners, LP

### **Law Firm of the Year**

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP