

# PRESS RELEASE

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BY



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## **FD again tops M&A league tables for 2005**

*London, New York:* Financial Dynamics (FD) has again topped mergermarket's annual league tables across a variety of categories, including:

- For the eighth year running, FD was number one in Europe by volume of transactions, advising on a record 204 transactions (45% more than its nearest competitor) worth €110.6bn during the course of the year
- In North America FD was number two by volume of transactions, advising on 117 transactions, valued at \$56.2bn
- In the UK FD was number one by volume of transactions, advising on 143 deals worth €47.8bn
- In Germany FD was number one in both volume and value, advising on 22 deals worth €39.9bn

Major transactions FD advised on during 2005 in Europe included: Unicredito's €15.4bn offer for HVB; Axel Springer's €3.8bn bid for ProSieben; Holcim's £1.8bn offer for Aggregate Industries; Aviva's £1.1bn offer for the RAC, AP Moller Maersk's €2.3 offer for P&O Nedlloyd and Deutsche Annington's €7bn acquisition of Viterra.

Major transactions FD advised on during 2005 in North America included: Viisage's \$770m bid for Identix; Apax partners' \$1.6bn acquisition of Tommy Hilfiger; Dex Media's \$4.2bn acquisition of RH Donnelley and Fresenius Medical Care's \$3.5 billion acquisition of Renal Care Group.

Commenting on FD's performance around the world CEO, Charles Watson said: *"FD's continued outstanding performance in the M&A league tables around the world reflects the depth and breadth of our advisory capabilities and the extensive scope of our client franchise. It also highlights the increasing recognition by existing and new clients of our consistency and quality as trusted advisors in the context of corporate transactions".*

### **For further information please contact:**

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## **About Financial Dynamics**

Financial Dynamics is one of the most highly regarded consultancies in the communications industry with a 20 year history of advising clients in both the private and public sectors. Services include financial public relations, investor relations, public affairs, crisis & issues management and corporate, business-to-business & business-to-consumer communications. Financial Dynamics is structured around specialist sector teams operating on an international basis, covering consumer industries, financial services, basic industries, business services, life sciences & healthcare, media, technology and telecommunications. Financial Dynamics is also a market leader in M&A advisory work. The Group employs over 450 professional staff and advises more than 750 clients worldwide through its offices in London, New York, Bahrain, Boston, Cape Town, Chicago, Dublin, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Moscow, Mumbai, Paris, San Francisco, Stockholm and Washington.

In July 2003 Financial Dynamics was subject to a management buyout supported by Advent International.