



## Apex Corporate Finance

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# APEX INITIATES MJ HUDSON ACQUISITION OF BRIDGE GROUP

In an acquisition originated by Apex, MJ Hudson, the fast-growing international asset management consultancy and professional services business, has announced the acquisition of Bridge Group, a leading Ireland based provider of specialist support services to the funds sector, conditional on regulatory approval.

Founded in 2005, Bridge Group offers regulatory compliance, domiciliation and risk services and is authorised to provide third party management services to both UCITS and alternative investment fund platforms (AIFM and UCITs management services, commonly referred to as a “Super Manco”). Bridge Group has 27 permanent staff, servicing 100 asset managers, with more than Euro 120bn in assets.

The directors and staff of Bridge Group will remain fully active in their existing roles. All will transition to MJ Hudson and the business will trade under the MJ Hudson brand. The deal substantially increases MJ Hudson’s Outsourcing division’s revenues, staff numbers and capabilities.

Matthew Hudson, CEO, MJ Hudson, commented:

*“The acquisition of Bridge Group in Ireland is a key milestone for the MJ Hudson’s Manco and regulatory platform offering. It means we can now offer clients representation in each of the principal UK and European fund centres, as Brexit approaches. Together with our equivalent London, Luxembourg and Channel Islands offerings, MJ Hudson is now one of the largest independent (not part of a banking group) regulatory platforms for asset management clients, and especially alternatives. The acquisition also gives us an extended Manco capability and a timely UCITs platform that complements our AIFM platforms in the UK, Luxembourg and Guernsey.”*

*“Alongside the wider resources, offerings and expertise of the MJ Hudson Group, the network effect we provide makes for a compelling proposition to the many new clients we welcome as part of the transaction. We are delighted that the Bridge Group team has decided to join us, and we look forward to helping the business to grow.”*

David Dillon, Director and co-founder, Bridge Group, commented:

*“This is a very exciting transaction from Bridge’s perspective. We had been looking for a partner, rather than an investor, to strengthen our footprint, internationally. Joining MJ Hudson hits a number of sweet spots: it strengthens our ability to provide clients with access to a regulated management company and governance services in Ireland, the UK, Luxembourg, and Guernsey. It also gives clients access to a broader range of resources and international consultancies, such as MJ Hudson’s specialist ESG Consultancy and its provider of Operational Benchmarking services.”*



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Paul Warren, MD of Apex Corporate Finance commented:

*“The acquisition of Bridge Group by MJ Hudson is a very significant step in growing and broadening MJ Hudson’s Manco and regulatory platform as well as giving MJ Hudson a significant presence in a strategic key fund centre. MJ Hudson and Bridge Group are highly complementary in respect of service capabilities, geographical footprint, client base and culture”.*

### **Apex Corporate Finance**

Apex Corporate Finance is a leading Independent Corporate Finance house specialising in Acquisition and Sale Initiation Services in the international fund, corporate, international expansion, trust, fiduciary, private wealth, financial services, professional services and other sectors for FTSE 100, small and mid-cap plcs, private equity funds and portfolio companies and independent businesses.

There are significant drivers of consolidation in these markets and there remains a keen appetite for high quality acquisitions across a number of jurisdictions.

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