

STELLA EOC TO BECOME PART OF GCA

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STELLA EOC TO BE ACQUIRED BY GCA, EXPANDING ITS SECTOR AND GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT

Combination will expand Stella EOC's coverage across key M&A markets in Europe, Asia and the US, as well as further strengthening its leading technology and media practice

Stella EOC has today announced that it will become part of GCA Corporation, a leading global investment bank with coverage across Europe, the US and Asia.

This combination, which will see Stella EOC adopting the brand of GCA's European business, GCA Altium, expands Stella EOC's coverage into the US and Asia, strengthening its already leading technology and media practice across Europe, as well as bringing to GCA expertise in the media and global entertainment space too.

Upon the completion of the transaction, the company will employ more than 400 bankers and operate across 25 locations in 14 countries. In 2019 the two companies generated around USD 240m in revenues and advised on a combined completed 190 deals.

Together, GCA and Stella EOC will continue to focus on high growth sectors, particularly in the media, technology and tech-related areas. The substantial opportunities for synergies between the businesses are expected to boost revenue growth through extended global coverage and increased cross-border capabilities.

Stella EOC's clients will benefit from expanded geographic coverage within Europe as well as Asia and the US, gaining access to key investors on a truly global scale as well as having access to a wider range of expert advisory services. Together, GCA and Stella EOC will continue to provide their clients with a broad offering of investment banking advisory services including M&A, debt and equity capital markets.

"We are pleased to announce our acquisition of Stella EOC. GCA and Stella EOC are a great fit in that we can expand our coverage even further into the Nordics and Benelux, where we have to date not had a presence and where we see exciting opportunities for our clients across the globe. Stella EOC is a leader in the technology and media M&A space and as such perfectly complements our strong technology sector focus," said Phil Adams, GCA Board Member and CEO of GCA Altium.

Fredrik Malmberg, Managing Partner at Stella EOC, added: "This combination with GCA marks a new chapter for Stella EOC. After a sustained period of growth and having delivered landmark tech and media transactions across Europe, we're delighted to embark on this next phase, extending our expertise to the US and Asia and delivering a wider range of services to our clients and stakeholders."

Fellow Stella EOC Managing Partner, Kristoffer Källeskog, also commented: "The synergies between GCA and Stella EOC are vast, and we will be able to offer our clients an even better service as part of GCA's truly global platform. Their well-established US, Asian, UK and continental European practices, extensive track record across our sectors and large team will enable us to deliver outstanding outcomes all round."

Key recent deals by both firms include:

- The public-to-private acquisition of data management leader **Cxense** by **Piano Software**, a leading provider of digital content monetization and audience intelligence software
- The sale of high growth D2C e-commerce company **iDeal of Sweden** to **Altor**, who have a total of €4.2bn investments across the Nordics
- The sale of Amsterdam-based SaaS leader **Usabilla** to the US-listed and market leader **SurveyMonkey**
- The launch of **Sister**, which saw **Freelands**, Elisabeth Murdoch's investment vehicle, partnering with Emmy Award winning **Sister Pictures** and creating a new, leading global indie production company
- The acquisition by **Oracle** of **Crowdtwist**, a leading cloud-native customer loyalty solution to empower brands to offer personalized customer experiences
- The partnership investment in **Mediatonic**, the UK's leading independent mobile live games developer, by **Synova Capital**
- The acquisition of **Gabocom**, a leading provider of highly engineered, high-quality cable management and protection solutions for the telecommunications industry, by **Aptiv**, a global technology company enabling the future of mobility
- The investment in **Acronis**, a global leader in cyber protection software, by **Goldman Sachs**
- The strategic partnership of **General Atlantic** with **Powercloud**, a fast-growing provider of comprehensive cloud solutions for the energy sector
- The sale by **Marlin Equity** of a majority stake in **Qualitest**, the world's largest pure-play outsourced software testing and quality assurance specialist, to **Bridgepoint**

For further information on this transaction please get in touch with the Stella EOC Team.