



press release

PRESS RELEASE

12 December 2007

NOVA EXPANDS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM

Nova Capital Management, the specialist acquirer of private equity and corporate portfolios, is pleased to announce that Adam Robson has joined the portfolio management team as an Operating Partner. Adam joins Nova from Molins plc where he was an executive Board member responsible as managing director for two of its divisions in Scientific Services and Packaging Machinery. He was previously CEO of Autocruise, a joint venture between Thales and TRW Automotive.

Nova's investment team uniquely combines the skills of both senior executives (Operating Partners) and experienced investment professionals (Investment Partners). Adam, who has worked internationally with companies at a strategic and operational level, will predominantly be focused on working with the Barloworld Scientific Laboratory Group of businesses which Nova recently acquired from Barloworld Limited in a £75m transaction. The Group designs, manufactures and distributes equipment and consumables for scientific, clinical and industrial laboratory applications.

David Williamson, managing director, Nova commented:

"We are delighted that Adam has joined the Nova team. He is well positioned to help support the continued development of the Barloworld Scientific Laboratory Group of businesses and strengthen their global footprint.

"Each portfolio of businesses we back has the support of investment and operational professionals which brings a real breadth of perspective and expertise to each company. It is this management rich model that enables us to deliver successful transactions, and engage with management teams as business partners to create value and drive performance."

-END-

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Notes on Nova:

- In a single transaction, Nova enables the investors and managers of private equity funds, and corporate owners, to unlock their holdings in multiple assets.
- Nova is one of the leading firms in this 'Secondary Direct' market. Established in 2002, and with a 30 strong team, Nova has acquired or taken over the management of portfolios representing a total transactional value of over €880m.
- Nova currently manages investments in 55 businesses primarily operating in Western Europe and the US, across a broad range of sectors.

Recent transactions include:

- Portfolio Acquisition - August 2007: Acquisition of U.S. manufacturing subsidiaries which included RollEase and Diacom, from Gartland Whalley & Barker plc, a privately held group.

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Recent exits include:

- Full listing on the London Stock Exchange of The Norcros Group, a highly focused home consumer products group with operations primarily in the UK and South Africa. The Group includes Triton, the UK's number one shower manufacturer, and HRJ, the UK's leading tile manufacturer.
- Scaff' Holding, the leading manufacturer and provider of scaffolding to the industrial and construction sectors in France, to Barclay's Private Equity France.

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Notes on Barloworld Scientific Group of companies

The Barloworld Scientific Laboratory Group of companies designs, manufactures and distributes equipment and consumables for scientific, clinical and industrial laboratory applications. Their products are sold in over 100 countries and are principally designed and manufactured in the UK. The Group has five distinct business streams with some of the strongest brands in the market. These include Scientific Equipment brands Jenway, Techne and Stuart; Carbolite ovens and furnaces; Glassware brands Quickfit, Pyrex® and MBL; and Plasticware brands Sterilin and Azlon. The Group also includes Afora SA, the leading Spanish distributor of laboratory equipment and consumables.

Pyrex is a trademark used under licence from Corning Inc.

<http://www.barloworld-scientific.com/>

