



press release

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Nova announce the US\$98 million acquisition of light industrial companies from Gartland Whalley & Barker plc

Nova, the specialist acquirer of private equity and corporate portfolios, is pleased to announce the US\$98 million acquisition of light industrial companies, RollEase and Diacom, from Gartland Whalley & Barker plc ("GWB"), a privately held group.

This is Nova's second wholly U.S. based acquisition and represents the firm's thirteenth portfolio transaction. This brings the number of companies managed by Nova to 52.

RollEase is the dominant manufacturer of rollerblind operating mechanisms and other window covering components in the U.S. market, with rapidly expanding international operations. Diacom is a successful niche manufacturer of fabric reinforced rubber diaphragms and seals for a wide range of industrial uses.

Dennis Powers, portfolio director, who leads Nova's U.S. activity said: "We are pleased to have completed this US corporate transaction. Both portfolio companies are performing strongly in their markets and we believe they have the opportunity to grow significantly over the next few years. We look forward to working with both management teams to support their desire to take these businesses on to the next stage of growth."

Tom Leader, investment director, who led the transaction for Nova commented: "Nova enables corporate owners to divest of multiple assets in a single transaction. This not only provides vendors with considerable time and transactional cost benefits, but the ability to re-allocate capital and management resources as required. We continue to seek opportunities to deliver similar transactions in the US, Europe and the UK."

Dennis Powers (US) and Tom Leader (UK) will join the boards of both businesses.

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Notes on RollEase

- RollEase was founded in 1980 and is headquartered in Stamford, CT with warehouse operations in Las Vegas and engineering and sales operations in China.
- RollEase is an engineering-driven firm with over 25 patents for technologies used in custom-fabricated alternative window coverings, which include Venetian blinds, roller shades and pleated or cellular shades (as opposed to curtains and draperies).
- RollEase product is considered to be at the high end of alternative window covering operating systems as its multi-spring technology allows for lifting of heavier weights with minimal slippage under load and level raising and lowering of the window covering using a continuous loop cord or chain.
- Customers include Hunter Douglas, Springs Window Fashions, Levolor and most fabricators of custom window coverings in the Americas and Canada.

www.rollease.com

Notes on Diacom

- Diacom, located in Amherst, New Hampshire, was founded in 1983 to develop and manufacture industrial, automotive, medical and commercial fabric reinforced diaphragms and seals.
- Fabric-reinforced diaphragms, as opposed to common generic seals, are difficult to make and do not leak, are virtually friction-less and have exceptional sensitivity, being able to withstand pressures up to 6,000 psi over a temperature range from -65° F to 600° F.

www.diacom.com