

## **BVCA FINANCIAL ADVICE OF THE YEAR 2008**

Catalyst Corporate Finance, the mid market corporate finance advisory business and UK member of Mergers Alliance, has won the BVCA/Real Deals 2008 Financial Advice of the Year award.

The award, presented at a ceremony held at the Grosvenor Hotel in London, was in recognition of the work the firm undertook on the growth capital investment for Foster + Partners, the world renowned architectural business.

This transaction had a number of challenges. Catalyst had to identify an appropriate equity backer to support future development plans, and take account of the desire from Lord Foster and the current shareholders to broaden the equity share ownership amongst the senior management team while preserving the philosophy and core values of Foster + Partners.

In order to meet the shareholders objectives, Catalyst introduced 3i plc as a minority investor, put in place an Executive Board and created the new role of Chief Executive with Lord Foster remaining as Chairman. Since the transaction was completed Foster + Partners have gone from strength to strength winning a number of major contracts around the world.

This award recognises Catalyst's ability to provide bespoke advice and solutions to their clients. They were delighted to win in such a hotly contested category which was dominated by organisations much larger than themselves. Catalyst's reputation for delivering highly complex deals continues to grow and in the uncertain times we live in today the provision of bespoke advice, rather than the one size fits approach adopted by most advisors, is what will continue to differentiate them and the other members of the Mergers Alliance network.

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## **Note to editors**

### **Catalyst Corporate Finance**

Catalyst is a leading independent corporate finance advisory firm and was recognised by the 2007 Acquisitions Monthly awards as the Independent Corporate Finance House of the Year and “unquote” magazine award for the 2007 Corporate Financier of the Year.

With a focus on providing strategic corporate finance advice to owner managed businesses, public companies and management teams, Catalyst is committed to supporting clients in growing and realising their shareholder value.

### **Mergers Alliance**

Mergers Alliance is an international network of independent firms offering high quality advice on mid market transactions. By bringing together an international team of dedicated corporate finance specialists with real experience of completing transactions together, Mergers Alliance provides a local contact point with an international reach. Cross border transactions represent an increasing proportion of M&A activity and Mergers Alliance is well placed to offer advice on delivering the full benefits of an acquisition, through to detailed integration planning.

The network has offices in the following cities:

Amsterdam	Istanbul	Surat
Bangalore	Johannesburg	Tokyo
Barcelona	Kolkata	Warsaw
Bilbao	London	
Beijing	Madrid	
Birmingham	Mexico City	
Bogotá	Milan	
Bologna	New York	
Chennai	Nottingham	
Chicago	Paris	
Frankfurt	San Sebastian	
's-Hertogenbosch	Singapore	
Hong Kong	Stockholm	